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THE 2015 CURAÇAO  
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**Aruba TODAY**

On Top Of The News Email:news@arubatoday.com website: www.arubatoday.com Tel:+297 582-7800 Thursday, January 22, 2015



**Snow Business**

**Davos Forum Kicks Off in Switzerland**

People walk next to snowmen representing the countries around the world during an exhibition from the NGO "Action2015" on the sideline of the 45th Annual Meeting of the World Economic Forum, WEF, in Davos, Switzerland, Wednesday, Jan. 21, 2015. The meeting runs Jan. 21 through 24 under the overarching theme "The New Global Context".  
(AP Photo/Keystone, Jean-Christophe Bott)



## DAVOS WATCH: Snowmen, oil prices, deflation and Pharrell

The Associated Press

**DAVOS, Switzerland (AP)** —

The World Economic Forum kicks off in the Swiss ski resort of Davos with the goal of "improving the state of the world." In practice, it's a massive networking event that brings together 2,500 heads of state, business leaders, philanthropists and artists.

Here are some glimpses of what's happening Wednesday at Davos:

### DEFLATION DANGER

Is a drop in consumer prices good or bad? Many lead-

Thursday a big stimulus to help the eurozone economy and get inflation higher. Not everywhere is in the same boat. Russia is dealing with a surge in inflation after its currency slumped. "If you need to know how to make inflation, come to Russia," quipped Arkady Dvorkovich, Russia's deputy prime minister.

### GET HAPPY AGAIN

Pharrell Williams, who got everyone singing along to "Happy" last year, says he'll have all of humanity singing together at a worldwide

sage across.

Action/2015, an umbrella movement that involves groups big and small, is trying to underline the need for the global elite to deal with poverty, growing inequalities and climate change. To do so, supporters built 193 snowmen on the sidelines of the Forum, each representing a nation, neatly attired with a flag scarf.

This year is a big one for activists. In September, global leaders are set to meet to update their efforts to fight poverty, followed three months later by internation-



The sun shines over snowmen representing the countries around the world during an exhibition from the NGO "Action2015" on the sideline of the 45th Annual Meeting of the World Economic Forum, WEF, in Davos, Switzerland, Wednesday, Jan. 21, 2015. The meeting runs Jan. 21 through 24 under the overarching theme "The New Global Context".

(AP Photo/Keystone, Jean-Christophe Boff)

ers in Davos are seeing it as one of the biggest dangers in years.

Lower prices can cut people's bills. But when people start expecting prices to drop on a broad scale, they put off buying things, hurting growth. It's a dynamic that is hard to escape and is a threat to developed economies, particularly Europe and Japan.

Anthony Scaramucci, the founder of investment firm SkyBridge Capital, was clear, if somewhat hyperbolic: "If we get deflation, the average citizen of the world does not understand its impact. It's the Darth Vader of the economy, the Death Star shooting a laser to blow up the Earth."

The European Central Bank is expected to announce

concert June 18 to fight global warming.

The pop superstar has teamed with Nobel Peace Prize-winner and former U.S. Vice President Al Gore to produce a "Live Earth" concert on seven continents to build support for a U.N. climate pact in Paris in December.

Williams said he hopes to have a billion voices demanding "climate action now." If something substantial does emerge in Paris, those voices will gladly sing along to "Happy" once again.

### IT'S S'NOW OR NEVER

The World Economic Forum isn't just about business and political leaders talking shop — for activists, it's about getting your mes-

al climate talks in Paris.

### OIL RIPPLES

The acute fall in oil prices and oil's impact on the global economy featured heavily in discussions at the World Economic Forum.

Most participants agreed the scale of the fall to below \$50 a barrel — around 60 percent since last June — represents a big boon for the global economy, especially to net importers of oil such as the United States, China, Japan and the 19-country eurozone. The latter, which is stumbling along from one anemic quarter to the next, needs all the help it can get, even with European Central Bank President Mario Draghi expected to announce some stimulus Thursday. □

## US, Cuba spar over migration policy at historic Havana talks

B. KLAPPER

M. WEISSENSTEIN

Associated Press

**HAVANA (AP)** — The United States said Wednesday it dispatched additional ships to the Florida Straits to halt Cuban rafters but rebuffed demands for broader changes to U.S. migration rules that dominated the first day of talks between Cuban officials and the highest-ranking U.S. delegation to the island in more than three decades.

Cuba urged the U.S. to end immigration privileges that grant virtually automatic legal residency to any Cuban who touches U.S. soil. Its government blames the Cold War policy for luring tens of thousands of Cubans a year to make perilous journeys by sea and land to try to reach the United States. Still, many Cubans are worried the elimination of the rules would take away their chance to have a better life in the U.S.

"I don't want them to get rid of it," said Mile Nieves, a 42-year-old Havana resident. "I've got my whole family there and I'm desperate to leave."

U.S. officials reported a spike in the number of rafters attempting to reach Florida after the Dec. 17 announcement that the countries would move to normalize ties. Those numbers appear to have slowed in recent days. In Washington, U.S. Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson issued a statement saying additional Coast Guard cutters have been deployed to stop Cuban and Haitian migrants from reaching the United States by boat.

America's "wet foot, dry foot" approach, which generally shields Cubans from deportation if they touch U.S. land, remains in effect, Johnson said. But he stressed that those trying to come by sea would most likely be interdicted and returned.

"Cuba wants a normal relationship with the U.S., in the broadest sense but also in the area of migration," said Cuba's head of North American affairs, Josefina Vidal. She called for the U.S. to end "exceptional treatment that no other citizens in the world receive, causing an irregular situation in the flow of migrants."

American officials instead pressed Cuba to take back tens of thousands of its nationals whom U.S. authorities want to deport because they have been convicted of crimes. No progress was made on that issue, according to an official present in the meeting. The official wasn't authorized to speak on the matter and demanded anonymity.

The talks continue Thursday with broader negotiations on how the U.S. and Cuba can end a half-century of enmity — as promised last month by Presidents Barack Obama and Raul Castro. The nations hope to re-establish embassies and post ambassadors to each other's capitals in the coming months.

After meeting with the Cubans for more than three hours, State Department officials said the annual migration talks had been easier than usual because the two sides felt comfortable focusing almost entirely on migration. In past years, the migration talks served as a pretext for a wider range of bilateral disagreements. "Today's discussions prove that despite clear differences that remain between our countries, the United States and Cuba can find opportunities to advance our mutual, shared interests as well as engage in respectful and thoughtful dialogue," said the State Department's Alex Lee, who headed the U.S. delegation ahead of Wednesday afternoon's arrival of Roberta Jacobson. Jacobson is the top American diplomat for Latin America and most senior U.S. official to visit Cuba in more than three decades. □



# Speaker Boehner defies Obama on Iran sanctions

DEB RIECHMANN

Associated Press

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — The leader of the U.S. House of Representatives, defying President Barack Obama, announced on Wednesday that he has invited Israel's prime minister to stand before Congress and push for new sanctions against its archenemy Iran.

Speaker John Boehner's decision to bring Benjamin Netanyahu before a joint meeting of Congress on Feb. 11 seemed to catch the White House by surprise.

And it added fuel to a drive by lawmakers from both parties to pass legislation calling for fresh penalties if there is no deal soon to prevent a nuclear-armed Iran.

Barely sworn in, the new Republican-controlled Congress is already on a collision course with Obama over a major foreign policy issue. Obama has threatened to veto any new sanctions legislation, saying it could scuttle ongoing nuclear talks with Iran and heighten the risk of a mili-

tary showdown.

Secretary of State John Kerry on Wednesday quoted an unidentified Israeli intelligence official as saying that adding sanctions now "would be like throwing a grenade into the process." But Boehner is not backing down.

He told a private meeting of Republican lawmakers that Congress would proceed on further penalties against Iran despite Obama's warning.

"He expects us to stand idly by and do nothing while he cuts a bad deal with Iran," Boehner said. "Two words: 'Hell no!' ... We're going to do no such thing."

The Democrats' House leader, Nancy Pelosi, strongly disagreed. She said Obama has had diplomatic success in bringing countries together for the current economic sanctions aimed at stopping Iran's nuclear program. And she said it would be "irresponsible" for Congress to impose new penalties that "could undermine the negotiations and undermine the diplomatic coal-



On the morning after President Barack Obama's State of the Union speech, House Speaker John Boehner of Ohio, leaves a news conference on Capitol Hill in Washington, Wednesday, Jan. 21, 2015, after telling reporters that he has asked Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to address Congress on dealing with terrorism, but did not consult the White House on the invitation. From left are, Rep. Lynn Jenkins, R-Kansas, House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy of Calif. and Boehner.

(AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite)

tion that is there — the permanent members of the U.N. Security Council plus Germany."

The White House said Boehner's invitation also was

a breach of diplomatic protocol. Traditionally, no administration would learn about a foreign leader's plan to visit the United States from the speaker of

the House, said State Department spokeswoman Jen Psaki.

Said Boehner: "I don't believe I am poking anyone in the eye." □

## Abortion foes push new bills in Congress and the states

DAVID CRARY

AP National Writer

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Foes of abortion are mobilizing on behalf of bills in Congress and several state legislatures that would further curtail women's access to the procedure, buoyed by conservative gains in the November elections.

On both sides of the debate, activists are highlighting their hopes and concerns in conjunction with Thursday's 42nd anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court's Roe v. Wade decision in 1973 that established a nationwide right to abortion. Since then, there have been more than 50 million abortions in the U.S. Coinciding with the annual March for Life in Washington, the Republican-controlled U.S. House of Representatives plans a debate Thursday on a bill that would ban most abortions after 20

weeks of pregnancy on the disputed premise that a fetus can feel pain at that stage. The bill is expected to pass in the House, but its prospects in the Senate are uncertain, despite the Republican takeover of that chamber. President Barack Obama has promised a veto if it reaches his desk. Several proposed bills at the state level may have a better chance of enactment.

Notable among them is a first-of-its-kind measure being drafted in Kansas, with the backing of the National Right to Life Committee, which would ban doctors from using forceps, tongs or other medical implements to dismember a living fetus in the womb to complete an abortion.

Planned Parenthood of Kansas and Mid-Missouri has vowed to fight the bill "every step of the way." □

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# Grand jury indicts US man held in Capitol terror plot

**DAN SEWELL**

**Associated Press**

**CINCINNATI (AP)** — A grand jury Wednesday indicted the 20-year-old man accused of plotting to attack the U.S. Capitol on charges that include attempting to kill federal officials and employees. The indictment charges Christopher Lee Cornell with two counts that carry possible sentences upon conviction of up to 20 years each: attempted murder of government employees and officials and solicitation to commit a crime of violence.

Cornell, who's 20 years old, also faces a firearms-related charge.

The indictment alleges that Cornell was attempting to "kill officers and employees of the United States while (they) were engaged in and on account of the performance of their official duties; specifically, by attempting to attack the United States Capitol Building."

Cornell was arrested outside a gun shop near his Ohio home Jan. 14 after the FBI said he bought two M-15 assault weapons and 600 rounds of ammunition.



**The U.S. Capitol in Washington is seen in January, 2015. A grand jury Wednesday indicted the 20-year-old man accused of plotting to attack the U.S. Capitol on charges that include attempting to kill federal officials and employees. The Capitol Dome is covered with scaffolding for a long-term repair project.**

**(AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite)**

The FBI said in court documents filed last week that Cornell planned to "wage jihad" by attacking the Capitol with pipe bombs and shooting government officials and employees. He is scheduled for arraignment Thursday.

A message was left Wednesday for his attorney.

Cornell's father, John Cornell, has said his son was coerced and misled by "a snitch" trying to better his own legal situation. A U.S. magistrate last Friday ordered the young man held without bond, saying he poses a danger to the community.

"The serious nature of the

alleged offense and the defendant's comfort with extreme violence weigh heavily against bond," Magistrate Stephanie K. Bowman wrote in her order. Cornell, in handcuffs and leg shackles, spoke softly during the detention hearing to an assistant federal public defender, Karen

Savir. Savir told the magistrate Cornell wanted to be addressed by his Muslim name, Raheel Mahrus Ubaydah, and to have access to a prayer mat and a clock in jail so he could continue his religious practices.

Savir said he had no history of serious trouble and didn't have a passport. She added that he was "eager to appear in court" to defend against the allegations.

Cornell, who lived with his parents in their apartment had long expressed distrust of government and the news media.

Police said he disrupted a 9/11 memorial ceremony in 2013 by holding up a sign saying the terrorist attacks were "an inside job." The FBI said he had for months sent social media messages and posted video espousing support for Islamic State militants and for violent attacks by others. Cornell told an informant they should "wage jihad," authorities said in court papers.

It was unclear from court papers if Cornell had made contact with any terrorist groups. □

## Ottawa police arrest man after hotel evacuation

**ROB GILLIES**

**Associated Press**

**TORONTO (AP)** — A 42-year-old man was arrested at an Ottawa hotel Wednesday

following an overnight investigation linked to the discovery of what police said were dangerous chemicals 1,400 kilometers (870 miles)

away in the Halifax area of Nova Scotia.

The type and extent of the chemicals were not immediately disclosed. But authorities considered them serious enough to evacuate two Halifax neighborhoods and the Ottawa hotel, and the suspect was arrested after negotiations with police, said Ottawa Const. Chuck Benoit. Police later said no hazardous materials were found in Ottawa.

A senior government official said the suspect is a chemist with no known criminal record. The man's current wife notified police because of her concern about his irregular behavior and his travel to Ottawa, according to the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to

speak publicly.

Police declined to release the man's name. However, the business manager of former U.S. Olympic gymnast Shannon Miller said she knew that the suspect was her ex-husband, Christopher B. Phillips.

The couple divorced in 2006 after seven years of marriage.

"I'm thankful that the brave men and women of the Ottawa police department and other law enforcement agencies were able to apprehend him and (defuse) the situation without incident," Miller said in a statement released by her manager, Nick Farris.

Royal Canadian Mounted Police were alerted to a suspicious package by a concerned citizen in Halifax, eventually leading to

the evacuation of homes Tuesday morning. The package was determined to contain hazardous materials but not explosives, the RCMP said. Five homes elsewhere in Halifax were also evacuated as police found hazardous and volatile materials there as well. Late Tuesday night, Ottawa police went to the Chimo hotel along with tactical and hazardous material teams. Guests were sent to other hotels. Benoit said police made contact with the suspect early Wednesday morning. "The negotiation went on and the individual exited the unit where he was staying on the sixth floor, and an arrest was made without incident," Benoit said. The suspect has not yet been charged with a crime. □





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## Video shows man shot by New Jersey police raising his hands



National Awareness Alliance spokesperson Walter Hudson, of Penns Grove, speaks to the media during a press conference in front of the Cumberland County Prosecutor's Office in Bridgeton, NJ, Wednesday Jan. 21, 2015, in response to the Dec. 30 police killing of Jerame C. Reid.

(AP Photo/The Press of Atlantic City, Michael Ein)

**SEAN CARLIN**  
**GEOFF MULVIHILL**  
**Associated Press**  
**BRIDGETON, New Jersey**  
**(AP)** — Another police killing is stirring anger in a U.S. city, this time in New Jersey, where a tense traffic stop captured on video ended with a passenger shot to death as he stepped out of a car with his hands raised at shoulder height. The newly released footage from a police dashboard camera shows police in a Dec. 30 stop that escalates quickly after one officer warns his partner about seeing a gun in the glove compartment of the Jaguar. Bridgeton officer Bra-heme Days screams over and over at the passenger, Jerame Reid, "Show me your hands!" and "If you reach for something, you're going to be f----- dead!" The officer appears to reach into the car and remove the gun. But the brief standoff ends with Reid disregarding Days' order to not move, stepping out and getting shot. The shooting has touched

off protests in Bridgeton, a struggling city of about 25,000 people — two-thirds of them black or Hispanic — outside Philadelphia. The case came after months of turbulent demonstrations and violence over the killings of unarmed black men by white police officers in New York and Ferguson, Missouri. Eric Garner's death in New York was captured on video, while Michael Brown's in Ferguson was not. Days is black, his partner white. The passenger was black, as was the driver. Both officers have been placed on leave while the Cumberland County prosecutor's office investigates. Activists are calling on the prosecutor to transfer the case to the state attorney general. First Assistant Prosecutor Harold Shapiro would not comment on the investigation Wednesday. "The video speaks for itself that at no point was Jerame Reid a threat and he possessed no weapon on his person," said Walter Hudson, chair and founder of the civil rights group the

National Awareness Alliance. "He complied with the officer and the officer shot him."

Reid, 36, had spent about 13 years in prison for shooting at New Jersey State Police troopers when he was a teenager. He was also arrested last year on charges including drug possession and obstruction; Days was

one of the arresting officers then.

The video was released through open records requests from the South Jersey Times and the Press of Atlantic City.

The officers had pulled over the Jaguar for rolling through a stop sign, and the encounter starts friendly. But Days suddenly steps

back, pulls his gun and tells the men, "Show me your hands." Days tells his partner there is a gun in the glove compartment and then appears to reach in and remove a handgun.

The driver, Leroy Tutt, is seen showing his hands atop the open window on his side of the car. It's not clear what Reid is doing. □



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## US Supreme Court sharply divided over housing bias cases

**SAM HANANEL**  
Associated Press

**WASHINGTON (AP)** —

The U.S. Supreme Court appeared sharply divided Wednesday in a debate over a decades-old strategy for fighting discrimination in housing.

Chief Justice John Roberts expressed serious doubts during a one-hour argument that the 1968 Fair Housing Act can be used to ban housing or lending practices without any proof of intent to discriminate.

But Justice Antonin Scalia, who usually aligns with Roberts and other conservatives, asked tough questions of both sides, making it tough to determine how the court might rule in a case that has steep ideological divisions.

The court's four liberal justices defended the use of so-called "disparate impact" lawsuits that allege even race-neutral policies can have a harmful effect on minority groups.

Civil rights organizations



**This photo shows the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs in Austin, Texas. The Obama administration may need the vote of a frequent conservative antagonist on the Supreme Court to preserve a decades-old strategy for fighting housing discrimination. Justice Antonin Scalia on Wednesday, Jan. 21, 2015, appeared at times to side with the administration and civil rights groups during arguments over the reach of the landmark Fair Housing Act of 1968, a case that otherwise seemed to split the court along ideological lines.**

(AP Photo/Eric Gay)

have speculated that the court took up the case to knock out such lawsuits, which have long been criti-

cized by banks, mortgage companies and conservative groups.

The case involves an ap-

peal from officials accused of awarding federal housing tax credits in a way that steered low-income hous-

ing into mostly poor, black neighborhoods in Dallas and generally kept the units out of wealthier white enclaves.

A Dallas-based fair housing group, Inclusive Communities Project Inc., sued the Texas Department of Housing and Community Development in 2008. The group alleged that agency policies were keeping Dallas neighborhoods segregated and denying blacks a chance to move into safer neighborhoods with better schools. The housing advocacy group couldn't prove Texas officials were intentionally biased. But a federal appeals court said the group could use statistics to show the effect of the policies still harmed black residents, in violation of the Fair Housing Act.

"It is very difficult to decide what impact is good and what impact is bad," Roberts said. What if one community wants to build low-income housing to revitalize minority neighborhoods, while another wants to integrate white areas, he asked. "Which is the bad thing to do?"

Solicitor General Donald Verrilli, who was arguing in favor of disparate impact, said both plans may ultimately pass muster. Under the test that's been in place for nearly 40 years, once a disparity is shown, a court must decide whether one race-neutral policy could be replaced with another race-neutral policy.

But Roberts pressed Verrilli with the same question three times, complaining that he wasn't getting an answer.

Justice Anthony Kennedy said it seemed "very odd to me" that disparate impact could work in either case. □

## Both sides upbeat after border shooting hearing

**JANET McCONNAUGHEY**  
Associated Press

**NEW ORLEANS (AP)** — A U.S. Border Patrol agent who shot and killed a Mexican 15-year-old across the border should be accountable in U.S. district court because all of his actions were in the country, an attorney for the boy's parents told judges Wednesday. "There is no legal black hole on the border," Steve Shadowen said as the hearing opened Wednesday before all 16 judges of the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

Agent Jesus Mesa Jr. asked

the full court to hear the case after a 5th Circuit panel ruled 2-1 that Jesus Hernandez and Maria Guadalupe Guereca Betancour could sue him over the death of their son, Sergio Hernandez.

The judges did not indicate when they would rule.

Allowing the suit would be "in essence, invading the power of a foreign country," said Mesa's attorney, Randolph Ortega.

Mexico doesn't see it that way: A "friend of the court" brief for Mexico's government asked the court to let the lawsuit proceed.

An attorney from the Mexican embassy attended the hearing but referred comments to the embassy press office, which did not immediately respond.

"Practicality and common sense — as well as the United States' international human rights obligations — demonstrate that the U.S. Border Patrol's obligation to refrain from unjustified use of deadly force does not vanish when the victim is located just across the border in the territory of a foreign nation," said the brief, filed earlier this month. Judge Edith Jones asked

Shadowen whether that interpretation might make the United States liable for the deaths of innocent wives and children killed by U.S. drones targeting jihadists in Iraq or Afghanistan. "There's a difference between military use of force and civilian use of force — a civilian law enforcement agency," Shadowen said. Attorneys for both sides were upbeat after the hearing. "The unifying theme I picked up is that everybody recognizes this is an injustice and needs to be remedied," Shadowen said. □



## US Financial Front: American home construction up 4.4 percent in December

MARTIN CRUTSINGER

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) —

Construction of new homes rebounded in December, helping to push activity for the entire year to the highest level since the peak of the housing boom nine years ago.

Builders started construction at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 1.09 million in December, an increase of 4.4 percent from November when unusually severe weather pushed activity down a revised 4.5 percent, the Commerce Department reported Wednesday.

For all of 2014, builders started construction on 1.01 million new homes and apartments, an increase of 8.8 percent from 2013. It was the first time construction has topped 1 million since the height of the housing boom in 2005, when builders started work on 2.07 million homes. Construction activity plunged to 587,000 in 2010 and has been making a slow recovery since then.

Housing construction topping the 1-million mark for the first time since 2005 adds to signs that the world's largest economy is on solid footing. The economy created nearly 3 million new jobs last year, the best showing since 1999. Economists believe the reviving labor market will drive further gains in housing this year.

President Barack Obama highlighted the improving economy in his State of the Union speech to Congress Tuesday night, describing 2014 a "breakthrough year for America."

Jennifer Lee, senior economist at BMO Capital Markets, called the housing report good news. While building permits fell for a second straight month, she said all the weakness in permits occurred in the apartment sector.

"The housing system has some good support systems in place," she said, noting that many banks

have relaxed some requirements for home buyers. The unemployment rate for 25- to 34-year-olds, the biggest sector for first-time home buyers, has also dropped to a six-year low.

For December, construction of single-family homes rose 7.2 percent while the smaller apartment sector, which can be volatile from month to month, fell 0.8 percent.

Applications for building permits dropped 1.9 percent in December to 1.03 million after a 3.7 percent decline in November.

By region, housing construction rose 12.5 percent in the Northeast and was up 8.8 percent in the South and 5.8 percent in the West. The Midwest was the only region to record a decline in December, falling 13.3 percent.

Despite the recent weakness in building permits, economists are forecasting continued gains in home construction in 2015. That optimism stems from rising employment and favorable demographics that are expected to drive future construction as more young people decide to purchase a home.

The National Association of Home Builders/Wells Fargo builder sentiment index stood at 57 in January, down slightly from a revised reading of 58 in December. Readings above 50 indicate that more builders view sales conditions as good rather than poor.

Broader economic trends point favorably for future sales. The unemployment rate fell in December to 5.6 percent in December. Nearly 3 million jobs were created last year in the best performance since 1999.

And mortgage interest rates remain near historic lows. The 30-year fixed rate mortgage just dropped for a third consecutive week, falling to 3.66 percent, its lowest level since May 2013.



A builder works on a new apartment building under construction in Phoenix. The Commerce Department reported on U.S. home construction in December on Wednesday, Jan. 21, 2015.

(AP Photo/Ross D. Franklin)

Though new homes represent only a fraction of the housing market, they have an outsized impact

on the economy. Each home built creates an average of three jobs for a year and generates

about \$90,000 in tax revenue, according to data compiled by the home builders. □

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## Boko Haram leader claims massacre in Baga, threatens more

**HARUNA UMAR**  
**MICHELLE FAUL**  
**Associated Press**  
**MAIDUGURI, Nigeria (AP)**

— Boko Haram leader Abubakar Shekau has claimed responsibility for the mass killings in the northeast Nigerian town of Baga and threatened more violence. As many as 2,000 civilians were killed and 3,700 homes and business were

destroyed in the Jan. 3 attack on the town near Nigeria's border with Cameroon, said Amnesty International.

The leader of Nigeria's Islamic extremists took responsibility for the killings in a video posted on YouTube Tuesday, the same day International Criminal Court prosecutor Fatou Bensouda said she is examining the

allegations of mass killings and will prosecute those most responsible for war crimes and crimes against humanity in Nigeria.

"We are the ones who fought the people of Baga, and we have killed them with such a killing as He (Allah) commanded us in his book," Shekau says, according to a translation from Arabic provided by

SITE Intelligence Group.

The video shows weapons supposedly captured from a key military base at Baga. "This is just the beginning of the killings. What you've just witnessed is a tip of the iceberg. More deaths are coming," said Shekau in the local Hausa language. "This will mark the end of politics and democracy in Nigeria," he warned as

the country gears up for critical Feb. 14 presidential elections.

The attack on Baga has sparked international outrage not seen since Boko Haram kidnapped nearly 300 girls from a boarding school in April last year. Nigeria's demoralized and ill-equipped military has failed to rescue the 219 who remain in captivity.

## Shiite rebels, Yemen's president reach deal to end standoff



Houthi Shiite Yemeni wearing army uniforms stand guard on a street leading to the presidential palace in Sanaa, Yemen, Wednesday, Jan. 21, 2015.

(AP Photo/Hani Mohammed)

**AHMED AL-HAJ**  
**Associated Press**  
**SANAA, Yemen (AP)** — Shi-

ite rebels holding Yemen's president captive in his home reached a deal with

the U.S.-backed leader Wednesday to end a violent standoff in the capital,

the country's state news agency reported.

The agreement promised to give the rebel Houthi movement more say in the affairs of the Arab world's poorest country in exchange for the group removing its fighters from President Abed Rabbo Mansour Hadi's home, the SABA news agency said. However, the late-night deal left unanswered who really controls the country and how much power is still held by Hadi, a key ally in U.S. efforts to battle Yemen's local al-Qaida branch.

In the deal, the Houthis also agreed to release a top aide to Hadi that they had kidnapped in recent days. SABA said the agreement included a clause that would answer the rebels' demands to amend the constitution and expand

their representation in the parliament and in state institutions. It also included promises to ensure better representation for Yemen's southerners as well, the deal said. The agreement also calls on Hadi to shake up a commission tasked with writing a draft constitution to ensure bigger representation for the Houthis. The draft constitution has proposed a federation of six regions, something the Houthis reject. The agreement reached Wednesday night also ensures that Yemen would be a federal state, but doesn't mention the six region proposal, saying controversial issues will be further discussed.

The agreement, while addressing the immediate Houthi takeover and security concerns in the capital, leaves the contentious political issues unresolved.

## German PEGIDA leader resigns after Hitler, refugee posts

**DAVID RISING**  
**Associated Press**  
**BERLIN (AP)** — The leader of a German organization against the perceived "Islamization" of Europe stepped down Wednesday after online posts surfaced in which he used derogatory language to refer to refugees and posed looking like Adolf Hitler.

Lutz Bachmann, co-founder of the Patriotic Europeans against the Islamization of the West, or PEGIDA, announced his departure on Facebook after German media published the comments where he called refugees "cattle" and "filthy," and a photo showing him with a Hitler mustache and hair combed over like the

Nazi Fuehrer. Bachmann didn't comment directly on the picture, but apologized for the anti-refugee comments, which he made online in September, a month before the group staged its first protest.

"I earnestly apologize to all citizens, who felt attacked by my postings," Bach-

mann said in a statement on the group's Facebook page.

"They were ill-considered comments that I wouldn't make in this way today," he said, expressing regret for harming the movement, which has taken pains to distance itself from neo-Nazi groups.

The group has staged

weekly demonstrations in the eastern city of Dresden that reached their peak last week, drawing 25,000 people.

This week's planned rally was canceled after police said authorities had monitored a Tweet calling for one of the organizers to be killed.



## French PM announces 'exceptional' measures against terrorism



**French Prime Minister Manuel Valls unveils new security measures at the Elysee Palace in Paris, Wednesday, Jan. 21, 2015. France announced sweeping new measures to counter home-grown terrorism Wednesday, including giving security forces better weapons and protection, going on an intelligence agent hiring spree and creating a better database of anyone suspected of extremist links. Behind reads: Mobilization against terrorism.**

(AP Photo/Philippe Wojazer, Pool)

**MAÏA de la BAUME  
DAN BILEFSKY**

© 2015 New York Times

**PARIS** - Two weeks after one of the deadliest attacks ever to hit France, Prime Minister Manuel Valls announced "exceptional" measures Wednesday to fight terrorism, including creating thousands of new counterterrorism jobs to intensify the monitoring of nearly 3,000 people the police consider surveillance targets.

The moves would reinforce a set of existing laws already considered to be among the strictest in Europe.

Valls made his announcements at a news conference after France formally charged and detained four men accused of providing logistical support to Amedy Coulibaly, one of the three gunmen involved in the three-day onslaught in which 17 people were killed in and around Paris.

And highlighting the difficulties facing the authorities as they confront the terrorist threat, Le Canard Enchaîné, a French weekly, reported that the police had allowed Coulibaly to leave without serious questioning after a routine traffic stop, just eight days before the attacks began in Paris. His file with the coun-

terterrorism authorities was said to have indicated that he should be questioned to extract the maximum amount of information without raising suspicion. Valls said that France would provide an additional 425 million euros (more than \$490 million) and create more than 2,500 new jobs to buttress the fight against terrorism and monitor the thousands of people the police consider surveillance targets. A bill aimed at updating the legal framework for intelligence and surveillance operations would also be introduced in Parliament in March, he said.

Among other proposals, Valls said his government would create a website intended to combat jihadi "indoctrination" as well as expand the number of separate quarters for radical inmates and provide more Muslim chaplains in French prisons.

He also said he would create a specific database listing the names of those who have already been convicted on charges of terrorism or who were members of "a terrorist fighting group." The existence of such a file would force them to "declare any change of address or any trip abroad," Valls said.

He added that his government would push for a bipartisan discussion of a proposal backed by the opposition Union for a Popular Movement that would create a felony of "national indignity," which could be applied to those who committed terrorist acts by stripping them of their civic and political rights.

French anti-terrorism laws were reinforced recently, amid international concern about the threat posed by Europeans returning from training or combat in Syria. Last year, the French Parliament passed legislation that created a new law outlining penalties for actions of a terrorist nature by individuals.

The law also made it easier for the authorities to block

people believed to be Islamist extremists from leaving France, and it authorized the Interior Ministry to void or confiscate the passports of people considered by the French intelligence services to be potential threats. Police officials confirmed the report Wednesday in Le Canard Enchaîné that Coulibaly had been stopped by police officers while driving in a rental car with his girlfriend, Hayat Boumeddiene, who the authorities suspect has since fled to Syria.

As the government ramps up efforts to combat terrorism after acknowledging a failure of intelligence in the prelude to the attacks, the latest revelation will add to intensifying questions on why the French authorities

were unable to thwart a terrorist attack by known Islamic radicals who had been monitored by counterterrorism authorities.

Le Canard Enchaîné reported that there was an instruction in Coulibaly's file indicating that he was "dangerous and belonged to an Islamist movement" and should be questioned to obtain as much information as possible.

"Get information without attracting attention," according to the police report. The newspaper also reported that when the officers informed the counterterrorism authorities that they had stopped Coulibaly as he drove through the 19th Arrondissement of Paris, they received no response. □



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## Tel Aviv: 11 wounded by Palestinian in bus attack

**TIA GOLDENBERG**  
**Associated Press**

**TEL AVIV, Israel (AP)** — A knife-wielding Palestinian stabbed 11 morning commuters on and near a bus Wednesday, striking in the heart of Tel Aviv and reigniting fears of continued violence ahead of Israeli elections in March. The attack was the latest in a spate of Palestin-

ian attacks against Israelis over recent months, which has been largely reserved to Jerusalem but also has spilled over to the West Bank and Tel Aviv. Tuesday's stabbing took place near a busy intersection during morning rush hour. Police identified the attacker as Hamza Mohammed Matrouk, 23, from the West Bank town of Tulkarem. Police said Matrouk confessed to the attack, saying this summer's Gaza war, tensions surrounding a Jerusalem site holy to Jews and Muslims and extremist Islamic videos promising him an "arrival to heaven" fueled

the violence. Gaza's ruling Hamas praised the attack, calling it "brave and heroic," but did not claim responsibility. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu blamed Palestinian incitement for the ongoing bloodshed. Police and witnesses said Matrouk was riding on the bus when he began stabbing passengers and the driver. He fled the bus but was chased down and shot by prison service officers nearby. They shot Matrouk in the leg and arrested him. The bus driver, Herzl Biton, was stabbed in the upper body and liver and



**An injured man is treated by paramedics at the scene of a stabbing in Tel Aviv, Israel, Wednesday, Jan. 21, 2015. A Palestinian man stabbed eleven people on a bus in central Tel Aviv before he was chased down, shot and arrested, Israeli police said Wednesday, describing the assault as a "terror attack" in the latest in a spate of violence, the worst Israel has seen in almost a decade. (AP Photo/Oded Balilty)**

ian attacks against Israelis over recent months, which has been largely reserved to Jerusalem but also has spilled over to the West Bank and Tel Aviv. Tuesday's stabbing took place near a busy intersection during morning

the violence. Gaza's ruling Hamas praised the attack, calling it "brave and heroic," but did not claim responsibility. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu blamed Palestinian incitement for the ongoing bloodshed.

underwent surgery, his niece Cheli Shushan said. Witnesses said Biton used pepper spray to deter the attacker and slammed on the brakes to jar him. After being stabbed, Biton flung open the doors to allow passengers to flee. □

## Saudi Arabia rights crackdown linked to war on terror: report

**AYA BATRAWY**  
**Associated Press**

**DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP)** — A man is given 50 lashes in a public square for "insulting Islam" on a liberal blog. Another is arrested for filming and uploading a woman's public beheading. Two females are imprisoned and put on trial for writing on Twitter in support of women driving.

These cases have thrust Saudi Arabia's record on human rights back into the spotlight, with international concern mounting over the limits of free speech in the Arab monarchy.

Human rights activists and lawyers say the cases are part of a sweeping clampdown on dissent that has intensified in Saudi Arabia since the region's 2011 Arab Spring upheaval. They say acts that offend the country's religious hard-liners or open up the kingdom to criticism — like the video of the execution of a woman convicted of murdering her stepdaughter — have landed people in jail as a warning to others.

The case of Raif Badawi, a 31-year-old father of three who was flogged this month, has attracted the most attention in recent days, particularly in the aftermath of the deadly attack in Paris against a satirical weekly that caricatured the Prophet Muhammad.

Badawi was arrested in 2012 after writing articles critical of Saudi Arabia's clerics on his Free Saudi Liberals blog, which has since been shut down. Hard-liners wanted him charged with apostasy, which carries the death sentence in Saudi Arabia, but he was instead found guilty of the lesser charge of insulting Islam.

He was sentenced in May to 10 years in prison and 1,000 lashes and was fined \$266,000. He was scheduled for another round of 50 lashes last Friday, but the flogging was canceled to allow his wounds to heal, according to Amnesty International.

"If you say that what happened in Paris is an attack on freedom of expression, than you can say what is happening to Raif is an attack on freedom of expression," said Amnesty's Saudi researcher Sevag Kechichian.

Just days after the attacks in Paris, Saudi Arabia's minister of state for foreign affairs took part in the huge march that was held there to support free speech and honor the victims. Two days earlier, Badawi was flogged in the Red Sea city of Jiddah.

Activists and lawyers say the kingdom's strict application of Sharia law against dissent is part of an effort to appease the religious conservatives who are vital supporters in the country's fight against Sunni extremists.

Badawi's arrest and flogging were "a gift, let's put it that way, to the hard-liners," Kechichian said.

Last year, the kingdom's senior clerics issued a stern religious edict, or fatwa, against al-Qaida and the Islamic State group. The edict gave crucial religious backing to King Abdullah's efforts to fight the Islamic State as part of a U.S.-led coalition.

Saudi Arabia issued a sweeping counterterrorism law last year and has been trying to deter its citizens from joining extremist groups that want to bring down its Western-allied monarchy.

But critics of the crackdown on dissent point out that public beheadings are also practiced by al-Qaida and IS. The U.S. State Department and the U.N. high commissioner for human rights have called on Saudi authorities to rescind Badawi's punishment. The Saudi royal court referred his case in December to Supreme Court judges to review the case. Maj. Gen. Mansour al-Turki, spokesman for the Interior Ministry, had no comment on the crackdown and told The Associated Press his ministry has no involvement in the cases. □

## Syria: 6 dead in Homs car bombing

**ALBERT AJI**  
**Associated Press**

**DAMASCUS, Syria (AP)** — A car bomb exploded Wednesday in the central Syrian city of Homs, killing at least six people in a neighborhood frequently targeted by rebels because it is seen as a home of loyalists of the President Bashar Assad. The rigged vehicle exploded among residential buildings and shops in the Akrama neighborhood, an area dominated by Alawites, the same sect as Assad. The explosion killed

mostly women and children, Homs Governor Talal Barrazi said. Barrazi said the blast killed at least six people and wounded 30. The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said the blast killed 10 people, basing its figure from a network of activists on the ground. Conflicting death tolls are routine after such attacks. It was the third car bomb to target the street over the past year, Barrazi said. A twin suicide car bombing outside schools there in October that killed at least

32 people, including at least 10 children.

Wednesday's bombing came a week after Syrian rebels and government forces began observing a 10-day truce in the last rebel-held area of Homs. Assad loyalists have been blockading the Waer neighborhood for some 20 months, only sporadically allowing in food. Barrazi said the truce would continue.

Syria's uprising and civil war has killed more than 220,000 people since it began in March 2011. □



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## Russia, Ukraine agree pullback line for heavy arms

F. JORDANS  
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Associated Press

**BERLIN (AP)** — Separatist forces deployed more arms and manpower Wednesday to an emerging flashpoint in eastern Ukraine, hours before diplomats from Russia and Ukraine agreed on a dividing line from where both sides should pull back their heavy weapons. Germany's Foreign Minister, who hosted a meeting of his counterparts from Russia, Ukraine and France, said the four parties had agreed that the demarcation line defined in the Minsk agreement of last year should form the basis for the withdrawal. Under the plan, Ukraine and the pro-Russian separatists would pull back their heavy arms 15 kilometers (9 miles) on either side of the line, though there was no agreement on a withdrawal of all troops. "Today we have finally agreed that the demarcation line mentioned in the Minsk agreement is the line from where the withdrawal of heavy weapons needs to take place now," German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier told reporters after the meeting in Berlin. Steinmeier said the agreement had been "difficult work" and the talks, which follow a fruitless round of negotiations last week, were "testing the patience of all involved." The parties also agreed that the contact group of Ukraine, Russia, and the OSCE should meet as soon as possible with the aim of laying further groundwork

for a high-level meeting in Kazakhstan's capital Astana aimed at reaching a long-lasting settlement. Separately, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said the "strong support" for the pullback was the meeting's most important result. He said the foreign ministers did not discuss the sanctions that the West has imposed on Russia over the Ukraine crisis, saying: "The sanctions are not our problem, it is the problem of those who introduced them and now do not know how to extricate themselves ...". Earlier Wednesday, Lavrov had urged measures to contain the unfolding unrest, but said nothing about the rebels surrendering territory they acquired in violation of a peace deal concluded in September in Minsk, Belarus. Ukraine says separatist forces that are backed by Russia have overstepped agreed-upon front-line boundaries between the warring sides by 500 square kilometers (190 square miles).



A pro-Russian armored vehicle moves toward Slovyanoserbsk, eastern Ukraine, Wednesday, Jan. 21, 2015. Moscow has proposed restoring a previously agreed line of division in eastern Ukraine to end an escalation of fighting near Donetsk, and has secured rebel agreement to pull back heavy weapons behind it, Russian foreign minister said Wednesday.

(AP Photo/Mstyslav Chernov)

A fresh separatist advance is under way in an area northwest of Luhansk, the second-largest rebel-held city. The fighting is centered on two checkpoints along a strategic highway. Ukraine's Defense Ministry said one of those positions,

Checkpoint 31, had been abandoned but that operations were underway to retake it. The separatist forces appear well-poised to take the upper hand, however. An Associated Press reporter saw nine Gvozdika self-

propelled howitzers and six anti-tank cannons moving near the town of Perevalsk around midday. A rebel militiaman with the convoy who declined to give his name said the armament was heading in the direction of Checkpoint 31. □

## North Korean leader may visit Moscow, Russia says

CHOE SANG-HUN  
© 2015 New York Times  
SEOUL, South Korea -

The leader of North Korea, Kim Jong Un, may visit Moscow in May on what would be his first trip abroad since taking control of his country in late 2011, the Russian government said Wednesday. Russia has invited Kim to the May 9 celebrations of the 70th anniversary of the Soviet Union's defeat of Nazi Germany, or Victory Day. Foreign Minister Sergey Lav-

rov said at a news conference in Moscow that "the first signal was positive" from the North Korean government. The North has yet to say whether Kim, who remains mostly an enigma, will attend. North Korea has been relying on its old Cold War allies, China and to a lesser extent Russia, to help tide it over after the U.N. imposed sanctions because of nuclear and long-range rocket tests it conducted in recent years. It also is counting on the two countries to

veto any United Nations move to bring Kim before the International Criminal Court on accusations that his country has violated human rights. In November, Kim sent Choe Ryong Hae, one of his closest aides, to Moscow to discuss improving political and economic ties. Kim's predecessors - his father, Kim Jong Il, and grandfather, Kim Il Sung - had frequently visited China and also traveled to the former Soviet Union and Russia,

though less frequently. The current leader, however, has chosen to stay in North Korea since taking power, meeting a senior Chinese party official in Pyongyang, North Korea's capital, in 2012. Since then, the only known prominent foreigner who has met Kim was Dennis Rodman, a former NBA star from the United States. Rodman has visited North Korea several times since early 2013, calling the North Korean leader a "friend." □



# New questions about death of prosecutor in Argentina

**A. CALATRAVA**  
**Associated Press**

**BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (AP)** — Mystery in the gun-shot death of a prosecutor who had accused Argentina's president of covering up a terror attack deepened Wednesday with the revelation that a door to his apartment barely locked and the discovery of another previously unknown entry.

The locksmith who opened the back door to give investigators access to the home where Alberto Nisman was found dead said it was barely closed, raising questions about whether a killer might have entered or exited what was earlier described as a 13th-story apartment locked from the inside.

After testifying to investigators, the man who gave his name only as Walter said he was able to quickly open the door with a hook. He added, "If someone entered or not, I don't know." The official news agency Telam, meanwhile, said investigators had found a third access to the home, a narrow passage hold-

ing air conditioning equipment that connects to a neighboring apartment occupied by an unidentified foreigner. They were investigating a seemingly recent footprint and fingerprint

son involved.

Nisman, 51, was found slumped in the bathroom of his apartment Sunday night with a bullet wound in his head and a .22 caliber handgun beside his body.

former Iranian officials accused of involvement in the 1994 car bombing of the country's largest Jewish center.

The death, and Tuesday's release of Nisman's full re-

trying to prosecute the president for covering up "crimes against humanity." The Ipsos polling company said 70 percent of 414 people it questioned soon after news of the death believed it was murder.

Lead prosecutor Viviana Fein said there was no evidence of anyone else involved in the death, but said Nisman left no suicide note. A test of his hand showed no residue of gunpowder, though she said that may have been due to the small caliber of the gun. The fact that national Security Secretary Sergio Berni quickly turned up in the apartment also fed doubts. Fein said the gun found beside Nisman was registered to another man, Diego Lagomarsino, described by officials as a colleague of Nisman, who reportedly gave it to him on Saturday. Nisman had spent 10 years investigating the 1994 bombing of a Jewish community center in Buenos Aires that killed 85 people, the worst terror attack in Argentine history.

His full report accused Fernandez and Foreign Minister Hector Timerman of reaching agreement with Iran to avoid prosecution of eight Iranians, including former senior officials, charged with involvement in the bombing. He said that would open a lucrative trade in Argentine grains and meat for Iranian oil. In the end Interpol never dropped its "red notices" for the arrest of five of the Iranians, however, and the government said trade with Iran has diminished in recent years.

Writing with passion, Nisman called it "a criminal plan to erase at a stroke the serious accusations that weigh on the Iranian fugitives ... something unprecedented and never before seen."

The document did not appear to show direct or documentary evidence of a deal, but it did include wiretap transcripts of several people discussing such negotiations and saying the deal was approved by "la jefa" — Spanish for a female "chief" — and "at the highest level."□



**People gather outside the AMIA Jewish community center asking for "Justice" in the death of a prosecutor who had accused Argentina's president of a criminal conspiracy, in Buenos Aires, Argentina, Wednesday, Jan. 21, 2015.**  
(AP Photo/Rodrigo Abd)

found inside.

Initial official reports of the scene had strongly suggested suicide: a securely locked apartment and no evidence of another per-

Four days before, he had given a judge a 289-page report alleging President Cristina Fernandez had secretly reached a deal to prevent prosecution of

port, caused a crisis for the government, which scrambled to promise "maximum transparency and cooperation" in the investigation into the death of a man

## Economic test looming for Bolivia's Morales

**CARLOS VALDEZ**  
**Associated Press**

**LA PAZ, Bolivia (AP)** — Bolivian President Evo Morales is beginning a new term that will make him the Andean nation's longest-serving leader, riding high on a wave of unprecedented growth and stability. But after he takes the oath before foreign dignitaries Thursday, Morales and his compatriots will face economic challenges that could quickly erode those gains and test the 55-year-old leader's popularity.

Morales' fortunes will depend on how he copes with an imminent plunge in natural gas prices, the main source of Bolivia's export revenue. Owing in part to his exacting of a bigger share of natural gas profits, Bolivia's gross domestic product tripled, reaching \$30.6 billion in 2014. With oil prices testing multi-year lows, gas revenues are expected to

shrink.

"Morales has had the greatest political and economic power of any president in (Bolivian) history thanks to what has been the country's biggest bonanza," said Marcelo Silva, a political scientist at San Andres University in La Paz, speaking of the commodities windfall and Morales' ascendance as Bolivia's first indigenous leader.

Supporters credit Morales with bringing Bolivia into the 21st century through public projects such as the launching of its first satellite and the opening of an Austrian-built aerial tramway system in the hilly capital. In October elections, more than 60 percent of voters backed him. But some now complain that the president, who grew up herding llamas and living in a dirt-floor adobe house, has grown too fond of the trappings of power.

Shortly after his election vic-



**Bolivia's President Evo Morales holds his sacred staffs of power in a ceremonial swearing-in, led by Aymaran spiritual guides, at the archeological site Tiwanaku, Bolivia, Wednesday, Jan. 21, 2015. Morales is set to begin a new term Thursday, that will make him the Andean nation's longest-serving leader, riding high on a wave of unprecedented growth and stability.**

(AP Photo/Juan Karita)

tory, Morales broke ground on a \$31 million, 20-story government palace that will feature a heliport crowning a stone-facade tower inspired by the giant monoliths of the ancient Tiwanaku culture. Morales has called the old palace an inadequate "mousehole."

But the timing of the proj-

ect — just as the country hits strong economic headwinds — has many grumbling. "What is needed are more schools," said Walter Laredo, who manages an internet cafe where the new building is going up. "I hope the government of Evo Morales makes better decisions."□





**"The blues, finding its way back home!"**

## Dates Set For Curaçao International BlueSeas Festival 2015

**WILLEMSTAD** - On 27 August 1990, after a historic performance with his Double Trouble, Stevie Ray Vaughan was tragically killed in a helicopter crash. The entire music-loving world was in deep mourning. Not only had the guitar genius, the pure musician left us, but also the man who with his unparalleled energy and love for 'his blues' had provided so much hope and joy, was abruptly snatched from our lives.

The blues world and the genre itself would, as it turned out, never recover from this blow. Indeed, it was through Stevie that



the genre had advanced immensely and enjoyed a never before seen popularity amongst all sections of the general public which, until the mid-eighties, was an unprecedented phenomenon.

Now, almost 25 years later, it is often said that the blues music is a dying form. A much-used observation of journalists, record bosses and so-called 'connoisseurs' of the genre. It is true that blues isn't played on 'mainstream' radio anymore and big internation-

al successes of real blues performers have become scarce since the death of Stevie Ray Vaughan. Of course, Eric Clapton does keep the momentum somewhat alive through his solo and co-productions with still living blues legends.

Buddy Guy, B.B. King, Charlie Musselwhite, Bonnie Raitt, Robert Cray and other from 'the old school' also make an effort. As do 'newcomers' like Joe Bonamassa and Gary Clark, Jr. And that's it. Or so we

thought. The truth requires us to continue searching, digging and sure enough, there is hope on the horizon! After all, the blues is flourishing in the US. Not so much in terms of excessive media attention and record sales, but more in the live circuit of clubs and at festivals, where the demand for performances by living guitar heroes, but also the interest in the large crowd of newcomers is absolutely growing. Fortunately, in England and in some countries in Continental Europe a healthy interest in the genre can be seen as well.

This is hardly a surprise. Trends in contemporary popular music, as we have seen from the late fifties onwards, come and go. However, for some types of music that are original and have been at the basis of that same popular music, different rules apply.

These are pure, able to endure the pressure of unwanted artistic concessions and thus also stand the test of time. The blues is and will always remain one of

those musical expressions, like jazz, gospel, salsa, and tropical types of music from the Caribbean basin and Latin America.

Curaçao is going to make its own contribution to this new resurgence of blues. Just like it has done over the past ten years, through festivals for salsa, jazz (Curaçao North Sea Jazz Festival), and other well-known and lesser-known American and Western European forms of music.

While New Orleans holds the position as the main blues and jazz festival center in the world, Curaçao has the ambition to take that position for the Caribbean and Latin America. After



all, Curaçao has played a special role in the development of the blues. In the 17th century, Curaçao served as an intermediary in the trade and transport of slaves from West Africa to, among other countries, North America. The slaves brought along their own stories and music. Continuing to share these expressions was the only way to communicate among themselves and to show solidarity in their suffering! The kick off will be the large-scale Curaçao International BlueSeas Festival in the capital Willemstad.

**Continued on page 16**





## Loyal Visitor Mrs. Lillian Lukacs honored by ATA



**EAGLE BEACH** - Recently the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure of honoring a very nice lady who is a loyal and friendly visitor of Aruba, as Ambassadors of Goodwill, at the La Cabana Beach

Resort. The symbolic honorary title is presented in the name of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guests who visit Aruba for 20-or-more consecutive years. The honoree was Mrs. Lillian

Lukacs from Coatesville, Pennsylvania. Lillian is a loyal member of the La Cabana, and she loves Aruba very much for the weather, beaches, and restaurants, and she always says that Aruba is truly 'One Happy



Island' and La Cabana is a wonderful Resort. The certificate was presented by Mr. Ernest Giel representing the Aruba Tourism Au-

thority together with family member from Lillian and Mrs. Charine Charles representing the La cabana Beach Resort. □

## Grouper at Fishes & More for Donna, Deborah and Pat



**PALM BEACH** - Donna Es-serwein, Deborah Santaveneren and Pat Knighton from the Baltimore, Maryland ordered the grouper when they were

at Fishes & More Restaurant in the Arawak Garden last week. They loved the taste, the quality of the food and the atmosphere at the restaurant in the Arawak Garden, where there is always live



music and lots of happy people around. The three ladies happened to pass by and decided to try Fishes & More and they enjoyed the great atmosphere there a lot. Donna is a pharmacist,

Deborah works in cleaning services and Pat is a Registered Nurse at home; on Aruba they throw off their professional cloaks and they are just three terrific, cheerful girls. Please come back soon! □



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## At Business Travel Awards 2015 In London; The Ritz-Carlton Hotel Company Recognized As “Best Upscale Hotel Brand”

### LONDON/ORANJESTAD

The annual Business Travel Awards took place in London this week and The Ritz-Carlton Hotel Company was recognized as “Best Upscale Hotel Brand”.

Organized by Buying Business Travel magazine, over 1,300 people attended the glittering event at The Grosvenor House Hotel for awards in 22 categories.

These highly-valued awards recognize and celebrate the achievements of the travel industry's leading businesses, teams and individuals who performed outstandingly in their field over the last 12 months. An independent panel of judges, made up primarily of respected senior business travel buyers, reviewed and marked each entry to identify those worthy of winning.

“We are delighted to receive this award from UK

based Travel professionals who send their well-travelled clients to hotels all around the world and are honored that they have chosen to recognize The Ritz-Carlton as the Best Upscale hotel brand” said Herve Humler, President and Chief Operations Officer of The Ritz-Carlton Hotel Company.

The Ritz-Carlton Hotel Company continues to expand its global portfolio with five hotels opened over the last eighteen months in business destinations such as Almaty, Herzliya and Tianjin introducing the luxury brand to travelers in new markets. The company currently operates 87 hotels in the Americas, Europe, Asia and the Middle East.

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### **The blues** Continued from page 13

On Thursday 7 and Friday 8 May, nine artists will give free concerts in the streets of Punda, while on Saturday 9 May the festival will close with two concerts on the Kleine Werf, the quay in the port of the St Anna Bay.

Quinn Sullivan, Kat Riggins, Ana Popović, Joe Louis

Walker, The Reverend Peyton's Big Damn Band, Lurrie Bell, Shemekia Copeland, Moreland & Arbuckle, and The Slide Brothers have been confirmed for Thursday 7 and Friday 8 May while the original Blues Brothers and blues legend Buddy Guy will close the festival on Saturday 9 May. Further information about Curaçao International BlueSeas Festival will be announced mid-February. □







Tiger Woods walks in the finish area of an alpine ski, women's World Cup super-G, in Cortina d'Ampezzo, Italy, Monday, Jan. 19, 2015.

Associated Press

## Vonn backs Tiger Woods' account of missing tooth

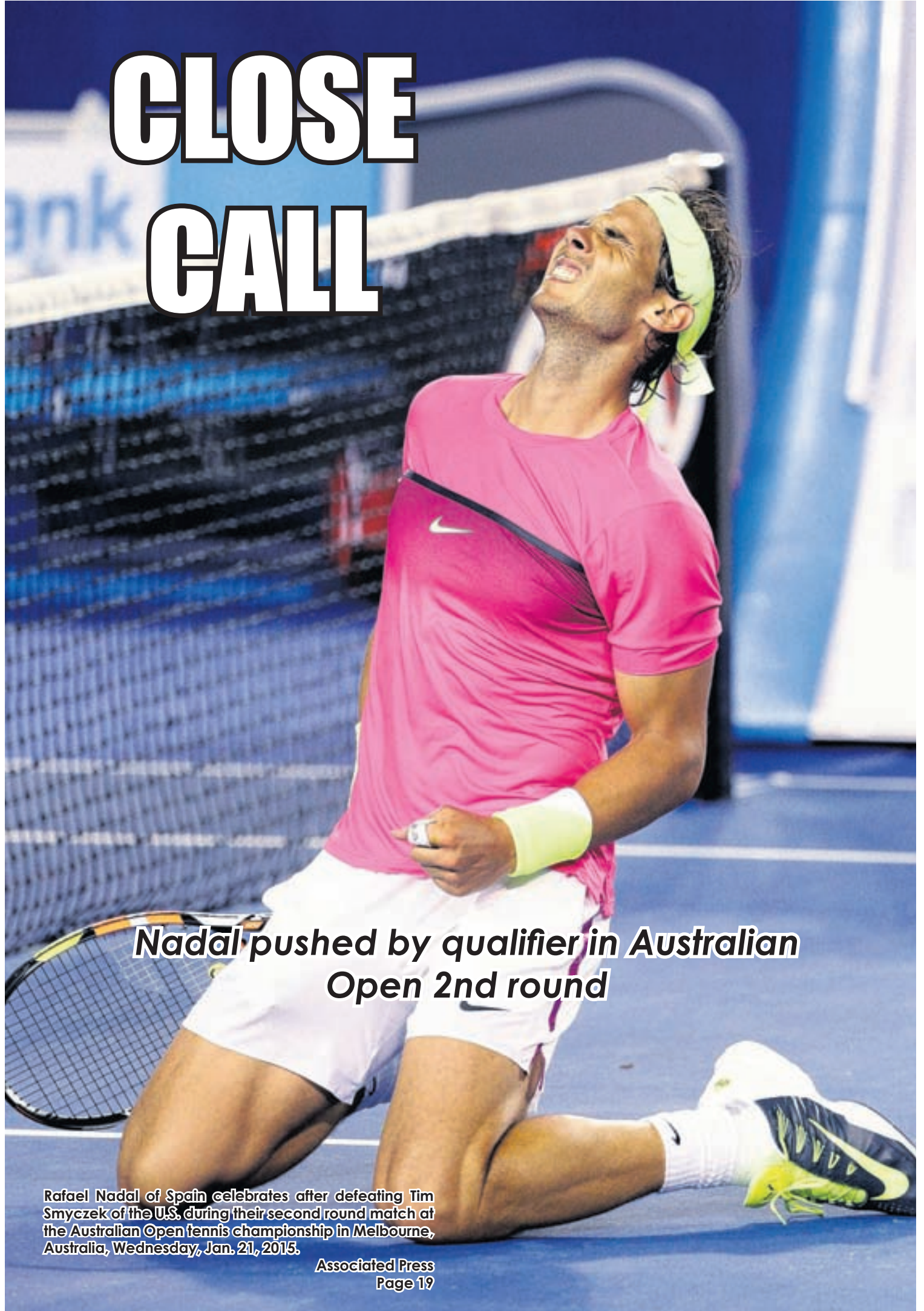
**CORTINA D'AMPEZZO, Italy (AP)** — World Cup ski champion Lindsey Vonn is backing boyfriend Tiger Woods' account of how he lost a front tooth.

One day after winning her record 63rd World Cup race, Vonn posted to her Facebook account Tuesday that she was happy Woods surprised her by coming to the race, and that she felt "terrible that his tooth got knocked out." "When he was in the finish area a cameraman accidentally knocked into him and took out his front tooth," Vonn wrote. "He was still in great spirits though and didn't complain once or ask for any special assistance or security. We were both just happy to share the moment together."

Vonn told USA Today in a phone interview: "I didn't see it happen, but I guess some photographer hit him in the face with a camera and it totally knocked his tooth out."

Continued on Next Page

# CLOSE CALL



## Nadal pushed by qualifier in Australian Open 2nd round

Rafael Nadal of Spain celebrates after defeating Tim Smyczek of the U.S. during their second round match at the Australian Open tennis championship in Melbourne, Australia, Wednesday, Jan. 21, 2015.

Associated Press  
Page 19



# Patrick Reed set for Humana Challenge title defense

**JOHN NICHOLSON**

**AP Sports Writer**

**LA QUINTA, California (AP)**

— Patrick Reed left everyone behind last year in the Humana Challenge. This year, he's trying not to get too far ahead of himself.

"That's one thing I'm going to do, hopefully, different this time than I did last time defending," said Reed, who is set to begin his title defense Thursday.

In his first career defense, Reed tied for 24th in the Wyndham Championship in August.

Last year in the desert, Reed shot three 63s to open a seven-shot lead and closed with a 71 for a two-stroke victory. He admitted he was too conservative in the final round after breaking the PGA Tour record for relation to par for the first 54 holes at 27 under, and becoming the first player to open with three rounds of 63 or better.

"Instead of attacking flags like I did the first three days, I started to play to the middle of greens," Reed said. "You need to stick to your game plan and keep firing hard."

The 24-year-old Reed is



**Patrick Reed lines up his putt on the 18th green during a play off round against Jimmy Walker at the Tournament of Champions golf tournament, Monday, Jan. 12, 2015, in Kapalua, Hawaii.**  
Associated Press

coming off a playoff victory over Jimmy Walker two weeks ago in Hawaii in the Tournament of Champions. Reed has four victories in his last 35 tour starts.

"The confidence is growing and growing," Reed said. "If I have a bad round or if I'm struggling, I still have that confidence level to keep going and turn a 75 into a 72 or a 71."

He and wife Justine stayed at Kapalua last week for a vacation.

"Worked on my forehead tan," Reed joked. "Seemed like that got more attention than the actual golf game. ... Played like 13 holes, that's it — through the whole week."

Phil Mickelson is back, too, after skipping the event last year.

Making his first start since the Ryder Cup in September, Lefty stayed away from the three tournament courses before the first round and wasn't available for comment. He played in Ben Crane's charity event Tuesday at the nearby Madison Club and practiced there Wednesday.

Mickelson worked with trainer Sean Cochran dur-

ing his long offseason.

"I'm getting lighter, developing more core strength and speed and increasing my ball speed," Mickelson said on his website.

The 44-year-old Mickelson, the 2002 and 2004 champion, is winless in 27 PGA Tour starts since the 2013 British Open.

"Not winning made it the worst year of my career," Mickelson said on his website. "It was a bad year statistically in all areas."

The tournament, long known as the Bob Hope Classic, is in the midst of more sweeping changes. Humana is in its final year as the title sponsor and PGA West's Arnold Palmer and Jack Nicklaus private layouts also are dropping out after the event.

"That's a bummer," Keegan Bradley said. "There's a lot of history on those two courses."

The tournament was shortened from 90 to 72 holes in 2012 and the celebrity portion of the pro-am field was dropped last year, with only a few "special guests" left.

However, the perfect conditions, mountain views and low scores remain. □

## Vonn

**Continued from Page 17**

Woods missing a tooth created a sensation Monday after the race.

Mark Steinberg, Woods' agent at Excel Sports Management, said in an email that during a crush of photographers at the awards podium, "a media member with a shoulder-mounted video camera pushed and surged toward the stage, turned and hit Tiger Woods in the mouth. Woods' tooth was knocked out by the incident." Woods first showed up in the athletes' area when Vonn's father, Alan Kildow, escorted him in shortly after Vonn took the lead. The golfer then surprised Vonn and gave the skier an emotional hug. After about 10 to 15 minutes of standing near Vonn with her family, Woods was

escorted into a white tent usually reserved for measuring skis. He stayed there for nearly an hour, while the last lower-ranked skiers came down and during the podium celebration.

After the podium celebration, Woods was escorted by police to a waiting snowmobile and taken away. Race organizers told The Associated Press they were not aware of the incident and that Woods requested extra security and a snowmobile to exit the finish area.

"I was among those who escorted him from the tent to the snowmobile and there was no such incident," Nicola Colli, the secretary general of the race organizing committee, told The Associated Press. "When he arrived he asked for more security and we rounded up police to look after both him and Lindsey. □



**Tiger Woods and Lindsey Vonn, left, exchange a kiss in the finish area of an alpine ski, women's World Cup super-G, in Cortina d'Ampezzo, Italy, Monday, Jan. 19, 2015. Lindsey Vonn won a super-G Monday for her record 63rd World Cup victory and celebrated with an embrace from a surprise visitor, boyfriend Tiger Woods.**

Associated Press



# So close: Nadal, Sharapova survive 2nd round at Aussie Open

JOHN PYE

AP Sports Writer

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)

— An agitated Roger Federer spat out the question that Rafael Nadal and Maria Sharapova easily could have asked the players who pushed them to the limits in the second round of the Australian Open.

"Do you have to be that close?" Federer snapped at a TV cameraman hovering nearby as he received medical advice after losing a set on Wednesday.

For Nadal and Sharapova, the nuisance was coming from the lowly-ranked qualifiers across the net.

Nadal was taken to five agonizing sets by No. 112-ranked Tim Smyczek, who even did him a sporting favor in the last game of a 4-hour, 12-minute night match. Sharapova needed to save two match points before prevailing 6-1, 4-6, 7-5 over fellow Russian Alexandra Panova, ranked No. 150. After his 6-2, 3-6, 6-7 (2), 6-3, 7-5 win, Nadal dropped to his knees on the court, clasping his hands in a prayer-like pose. The 14-time Grand Slam champion has played some epic matches on Rod Laver Arena, including the 5-hour, 53-minute final he lost to Novak Djokovic in 2012, his championship win against Federer in 2009 and a myriad of painful encounters over the years.

The third-seeded Nadal came into the first major of the season after playing just four tournaments since Wimbledon because of a right wrist injury and appendix surgery. Midway through the third set Wednesday, he needed medication for stomach cramps.

"At the end of the first set, I start to feel my body very bad, very tired ... I was worrying crazy," he said. "Then when I was serving for the third, almost throw up. So was terrible feeling.

"I was suffering a lot. Too much. Obviously is a very positive thing that finally I have the chance to win, but, yeah, I hope to recov-

er myself."

Nadal made uncharacteristic errors and had seven double-faults, including one when he faced break point while serving for the third set.

Smyczek was competing shot-for-shot, belying his experience of just eight Grand Slam tournaments and no previous wins against a top 10 opponent. He twice led by a set.

But Nadal, who at times was doubled over in pain and resting his hands and head on his racket, hung on until he broke Smyczek's serve in the 11th game of the fifth set.

When a spectator screamed out as Nadal tossed the ball for his serve at 30-0 in the last game, Smyczek insisted the Spaniard replay the serve — a gesture later acknowledged with high praise. Nadal won the replayed point, earning triple match point. Smyczek saved those three, but couldn't break after taking the game to deuce.

"I want to congratulate Tim — he's a real gentleman," Nadal said. "What he did at the end of the fifth is just amazing. ... He's a great example what he did today." Federer was troubled by a sore right pinkie finger, an injury he couldn't diagnose or explain, but rallied to beat Simone Bolelli 3-6, 6-3, 6-2, 6-2 to advance to the third round along with three-time Australian Open finalist Andy Murray, No. 7 Tomas Berdych and No. 10 Grigor Dimitrov.

"It felt like a bee stung me. I was like, 'This can't be possible — I never had this pain before.' It was disturbing me," Federer, a four-time Australian Open champion, said. "I knew that to tape it wasn't an option."

Seven of the men's seeded players lost, with 2006 Australian Open finalist Marcos Baghdatis beating No. 20 David Goffin and Australian teenager Nick Kyrgios — who was a wild card ranked No. 144 when he beat Nadal in the fourth round at Wimbledon last

year — defeating No. 23 Ivo Karlovic in a four sets.

Sharapova made 51 unforced errors but kept swinging right to the end and is the only Grand Slam winner in her half of the draw. She next plays No. 31 Zarina Diyas.

"I was one point away twice today from being out of the tournament," Sharapova said. "I think she played a pretty inspired match."

Seventh-seeded Eugenie Bouchard, who reached the semifinals or better at three of the four majors in 2014, needed just 54 minutes to beat Kiki Bertens 6-0, 6-3 and is the biggest threat to Sharapova in the bottom half of the draw. □



Maria Sharapova of Russia makes a backhand return to Alexandra Panova of Russia during their second round match at the Australian Open tennis championship in Melbourne, Australia, Wednesday, Jan. 21, 2015.

Associated Press

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# Thunder beats Heat to finally get into the win-loss black

**The Associated Press**

**MIAMI (AP) — MIAMI (AP)**

— Russell Westbrook scored 19 points and grabbed 10 rebounds, Kevin Durant added 19 points and the Oklahoma City Thunder moved over the .500 mark for the first time this season with a 94-86 win over the Miami Heat on Tuesday night.

Durant also had eight rebounds and eight assists for the Thunder, who've won 18 of their last 26 games. Reggie Jackson scored 16 points and Anthony Morrow added 12 for Oklahoma City.

Dwyane Wade scored 18 points and Chris Bosh added 16 for Miami, which fell to 7-13 at home.

Durant was 0 for 8 from 3-point range — matching the second-worst showing of his career — and the Thunder got to the foul line only 10 times, less than half their team average coming into the night.

SPURS 109, NUGGETS 99

DENVER (AP) — Kawhi Leonard had 17 points and 15 rebounds in another strong outing since returning from a hand injury, leading San Antonio to its fourth straight win.

Tony Parker scored 18 points and Tim Duncan added 16, all in the second half, to help the Spurs beat the Nuggets for the fifth straight time.

Leonard has been a big part of San Antonio's recent surge, playing for the third time since returning from a bruised hand that had sidelined him for the previous 15 games.

Kenneth Faried had 26 points and 14 rebounds for the Nuggets, who lost their fourth straight. Arron Affalo added 21 points. □

**Miami Heat's Chris Andersen, right, defends Oklahoma City Thunder's Kevin Durant during the first half of an NBA basketball game in Miami, Tuesday, Jan. 20, 2015.**

**Associated Press**



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## NHL Capsules

# Flyers beat Penguins In OT in testy game

**The Associated Press**  
**PHILADELPHIA (AP)** - Claude Giroux scored 3:57 into overtime, lifting the Philadelphia Flyers over the Pittsburgh Penguins 3-2 in a fight-filled game Tuesday night.

After a throwback clash that featured one ejection and 93 penalty minutes, perhaps this one should have been decided by the judges' scorecards rather than goals.

Philadelphia wing Zac Rinaldo was tossed and faces a likely suspension for plowing Kris Letang into the glass. Flyers All-Star and NHL scoring leader Jake Voracek threw a series of fists in his first fight of the season. Heated rivals for years, the teams fought four times in the second period for a total of 66 penalty minutes. Pittsburgh's Beau Bennett and Philadelphia's Chris VandeVelde scored in the third to make it 2-all. Luke Schenn also scored for the Flyers, and Chris Kunitz tied it with a short-handed goal.

**LIGHTNING 4, CANUCKS 1**  
TAMPA, Fla. (AP) " Alex Killorn had two goals, Valtteri Filppula added a goal and an assist, and Tampa Bay took over the top spot in the Eastern Conference with a victory over Vancouver.

Brian Boyle also scored for the Lightning, who lead the New York Islanders by one point in the East. Ben Bishop stopped 27 shots in Tampa Bay's eighth straight home win.

Vancouver got 22 saves from Ryan Miller. Frank Corrado ruined Bishop's shut-out bid at 8:09 of the third.

**RANGERS 3, SENATORS 2, OT**  
NEW YORK (AP) Carl Hagelin deflected in Derek Stepan's slick backhand pass 2:55 into overtime to give New York a comeback victory over Ottawa.

The Senators had the better of the chances in the extra session, but Hagelin put the winner behind goalie Craig

Anderson as the Rangers won their third straight and 16th in 19 games heading into the NHL All-Star break. Chris Kreider tied it for New York in the third period. Kevin Hayes also scored, and Henrik Lundqvist made 33 saves.

Erik Karlsson and Milan Michalek had second-period goals for Ottawa. Anderson stopped 32 shots, but let New York's only one in overtime get past him.

**OILERS 5, CAPITALS 4, SO**  
WASHINGTON (AP) Teddy Purcell scored the decisive goal in a shootout after Edmonton rallied from a two-goal deficit late in regulation, and the Oilers ended Washington's seven-game home winning streak.

Purcell beat Capitals goalie Braden Holtby in the fourth round of the shootout after Viktor Fasth stopped Eric Fehr.

The victory was the 12th in 47 games for Edmonton and only the fourth on the road.

Alex Ovechkin scored twice in the opening 14 minutes for the Capitals, who held leads of 2-0, 3-1 and 4-2 before the Oilers made one final push during the final 5 minutes of regulation.

Purcell scored at 15:49 to make it 4-3, and Ryan Nugent-Hopkins tied it with a wrist shot at 18:53 after Fasth vacated the net for an extra skater.

Derek Roy and Nikita Nikitin also scored in regulation for Edmonton.

Despite the loss, Washington headed into the All-Star break with at least a point in 19 of its last 22 games.

Jay Beagle and Nicklas Backstrom also had goals for the Capitals, who have lost three straight.

**RED WINGS 5, WILD 4, SO**  
DETROIT (AP) " Gustav Nyquist and Pavel Datsyuk scored in a shootout, and Detroit outlasted Minnesota after the Wild rallied from three goals down in the third period.

Detroit won for only the second time in nine shootouts this season and came away with its fifth consecutive victory overall. Nyquist also scored in regulation, but the Red Wings blew a 4-1 lead in the third.

Zach Parise scored twice for Minnesota, but missed his attempt to start the shootout.

Mikko Koivu, who also scored in regulation, had his shootout attempt stopped by Petr Mrazek.

The Red Wings reached the All-Star break a point behind Tampa Bay for the top spot in the Eastern Conference. Detroit's five-game winning streak is a season high.

### CANADIENS 2, PREDATORS 1

MONTREAL (AP) " P.K. Subban scored on a power play 4:09 into overtime, lifting Montreal over Nashville in the last game for both teams before the All-Star break.

Alex Galchenyuk also scored for the Canadiens (29-13-3).

Mike Ribeiro scored for Nashville (30-10-5), which failed to win following a loss for the first time in 14 tries this season.

Carey Price was back in the Montreal net after missing two games with an upper-body injury and had to be sharp early as Mike Fisher broke in alone. Price made 37 saves.

### BLACKHAWKS 6, COYOTES 1

CHICAGO (AP)- Andrew Shaw broke out of a scoring slump with two goals to help Chicago beat struggling Arizona.

Patrick Kane had a goal and two assists, and rookie Teuvo Teravainen had a goal and an assist as the Blackhawks got back on track after dropping two in a row and three of four. Kane's goal in the second was No. 200 for his career, and Teravainen had his first multipoint game in the NHL. □



Nashville Predators' Victor Bartley, left, is checked into the boards by Montreal Canadiens' Brandon Prust during the first period of an NHL hockey game Tuesday, Jan. 20, 2015, in Montreal.

Associated Press

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# Scherzer's \$210M deal done, Nationals think about 'winning'

By **HOWARD FENDRICH**  
AP Sports Writer

**WASHINGTON (AP)** -- Forgive Washington Nationals owner Mark Lerner if he got swept up in the scene.

Speaking after a news conference Wednesday to announce the addition - via a \$210 million, seven-year contract - of 2013 AL Cy Young Award winner Max Scherzer, Lerner was thinking big thoughts. After all, the club's starting rotation, at least for the moment, also includes Stephen Strasburg, Jordan Zimmermann, Doug Fister and Gio Gonzalez.

"If they all stay healthy," began Lerner, whose father, Ted, is the team's principal owner, "I guess it's a possibility we may give up the fewest runs in National League history during a 162-game schedule, which is amazing."

Let the speculation begin, then. Who will start on opening day, an honor that's gone to Strasburg the past three years? How good could this staff be?

As it is, in 2014, Washington's starters led the majors with a 3.04 ERA. How far can those pitchers take the Nationals, who won the NL East in 2012 and again last season before bowing out in Washington's opening playoff series each time? And, perhaps most intriguingly, will general manager Mike Rizzo keep that group intact? Or will he wind up trading someone, perhaps Zimmermann or Fister, who can both become free agents after next season?

Until those last two questions are answered, Rizzo certainly shares Lerner's enthusiasm for the current collection of arms.

"We'll stack our rotation up with anybody's in our division, our league and maybe in baseball,"



**This July 30, 2014, file photo shows Detroit Tigers starting pitcher Max Scherzer throwing during the first inning of a baseball game against the Chicago White Sox in Detroit.**

**Associated Press**

Rizzo said, "and compete against them."

Of course, things don't always shape up on the field the way they do during the offseason.

The terrific Atlanta Braves group that included three Hall of Famers in Greg Maddux, Tom Glavine and John Smoltz wound up with only one World Series championship. That's one more than the Philadelphia Phillies won after assembling Roy Halladay, Cliff Lee, Cole Hamels and Roy Oswalt.

Still, if that's the discussion connected to the Nationals now, it represents a sea change from where this franchise stood a half-dozen years ago.

It was noteworthy to hear the word "winning" over and over Wednesday at Nationals Park, where the scoreboard displayed a "Welcome to D.C." greeting for Scherzer and his wife, and the diamond was covered by the afternoon's dusting of snow.

This is a club that lost 100 games in

both 2008 and 2009 and found it difficult to attract top talent in free agency, but the perception has changed.

"There's no doubt about it," Rizzo said. "We've got a lot of good baseball people around here. We've got a lot of good professionals. The selling portion of it from five years ago to today is night and day. We certainly have no problem with players wanting to be Washington Nationals."

Asked what were the reasons that led him to sign with Washington, Scherzer replied, "One: winning. I think this team is capable of winning and winning a lot. When you look at the near term and long term, this is an organization you want to be a part of."

The size of the contract probably didn't hurt, either.

The 30-year-old Scherzer, who became a free agent after spending the past five seasons with the Detroit Tigers, received the most guaranteed dollars for a right-handed pitcher in big league history.

"I don't play this game for money," said Scherzer, who was 18-5 with a 3.15 ERA in 2014, a year after going 21-3 with a 2.90 ERA, "but yet at the same time, when you have an offer like that, it just makes you go, 'Wow.'"

The deal includes a record \$50 million signing bonus and spreads the total payments over 14 years, reducing the present-day value and making it palatable for the Nationals.

"If that didn't happen, there wouldn't have been a deal," Mark Lerner said. "We had to make it work for us financially. It was really my father and Mike coming up with a creative deal."

And Lerner joked about Scherzer: "I want to ask him for a loan." □

## Rodriguez getting hitting advice from Bonds, Martinez

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Alex Rodriguez is getting hitting tips from Barry Bonds as the New York Yankees third baseman prepares to return from a season-long suspension.

Rodriguez spokesman Ron Berkowitz confirmed the workouts, which the San Francisco Chronicle reported Wednesday took place at the Future Prospects batting cages in San Rafael, California.

"Alex has consulted numerous former players and coaches as he continues to work towards spring training including most recently Edgar Martinez who worked with him last week in Miami," Berkowitz said in an email.

Rodriguez, who turns 40 in July, is sixth on the career list with 654 homers. Bonds leads with 762.

A-Rod admitted six years ago he used banned ste-

roids while with Texas from 2001-03, and was suspended for last season for violating baseball's drug agreement and labor contract. Bonds testified in 2003 that he was not aware substances given to him by personal trainer Greg Anderson were banned performance-enhancing drugs.

New York says it plans to shift Rodriguez from third base to designated hitter.



**In this July 9, 2007, file photo, American League's Alex Rodriguez, right, of the New York Yankees, compares grips with National League's Barry Bonds, of the San Francisco Giants, during the All-Star Home Run Baseball Derby in San Francisco.**

**Associated Press**

A-Rod is owed \$61 million of his contract with the Yankees in the final three seasons. □



## Google, Fidelity fuel Elon Musk's SpaceX with \$1B investment

**HAWTHORNE, Calif. (AP)** — SpaceX has raised \$1 billion from Google and Fidelity in a deal that values the spaceship manufacturer at about \$10 billion.

The infusion announced Tuesday will give Google Inc. and Fidelity Investments a nearly 10 percent stake in SpaceX, a Hawthorne, California, company that employs more than 3,000 people.

Although privately held SpaceX didn't reveal any concrete plans, the money could help founder Elon Musk realize his hopes to fly people to Mars within the next 12 years and eventually build a city on the planet.

Musk, 43, also has publicly talked about using satellites to provide Internet access to remote parts of the Earth, a mission that Google also has embraced in a separate project that relies on high-altitude balloons. As the owner of the largest



In this May 29, 2014 file photo, Elon Musk, CEO and CTO of SpaceX, introduces the SpaceX Dragon V2 spaceship at the SpaceX headquarters in Hawthorne, Calif. SpaceX said it has raised \$1 billion and added Google Inc. and Fidelity as investors.

Associated Press.

Internet search engine and digital ad network, Google stands to make more money if more people can get online.

"Space-based applications, like imaging satellites, can help people more easily access important information, so we're excited to

support SpaceX's growth as it develops new launch technologies," Google said in a statement.

Donald Harrison, who over-

sees Google's corporate development team, will be joining SpaceX's board of directors as part of the company's investment.

SpaceX, which stands for Space Exploration Technologies, has previously raised money from the Founders Fund, Draper Fisher Jurvetson, Valor Equity Partners and Capricorn since its 2002 inception.

The Founders Fund was started by Peter Thiel, who teamed up with Musk in the late 1990s to create the online payment service PayPal.

Musk also is CEO of electric car maker Tesla Motors and has made headlines for his vision of a high-speed transportation system that would shoot passengers through elevated tubes from San Francisco to Los Angeles.

SpaceX's spacecraft has been used to deliver goods to the International Space Station.

## Japan to sell talking robots that won't try to make sense

**YURI KAGEYAMA**  
AP Business Writer

**TOKYO (AP)** — The scientist behind a new talking robot in Japan says people should stop expecting robots to understand them, and instead try to chime in with robotic conversations. Hiroshi Ishiguro's 28-centimeter (11-inch) tall button-eyed Sota, which stands for "social talker," is programmed to mainly talk with a fellow robot, and won't be trying too hard to understand human speech — the major, and often frustrating, drawback of companion robots. Sota, shown to reporters at a Tokyo museum Tuesday, goes on sale in July at under 100,000 yen (\$850) each. To fully enjoy its features, one would have to buy at least two of them, although people can buy just one.

"Don't stop at just two. Please buy three or four," said Ishiguro, a professor at Osaka University, who has previously shown a variety of robots that look eerily human, including one that's his double.

Ishiguro also demonstrated

a more elaborate robot CommU, which stands for communication unity. It will cost five times as much as Sota.

The news conference to introduce Sota and CommU was led by two other humanoids, which appeared to talk with the two newest additions to Japan's robot pantheon.

Robot maker Vstone, which simplified Ishiguro's research to come up with commercial products, expects to sell 3,000 Sota robots in the first year, mostly to businesses. They could be used for tasks such as drawing attention to products on display.

Japan is a leading maker of robots, and its repertoire has ranged from industrial robots to whimsical toys.

Internet and telecommunications company Softbank Corp. will start selling Pepper, a humanoid it claims is designed to read human emotions, in Japan next month for 198,000 yen (\$1,700), possibly heralding the era of everyday robots here.

Ishiguro said the idea be-



New talking robots Sota, center and right, and another talking robot CommU are shown together during a press event in Tokyo Tuesday, Jan. 20, 2015.

Associated Press

hind Sota and CommU was similar to watching chattering children. An adult joining such a conversation would have low expectations and be engaging in dialogue for the fun, he said.

CommU is designed to make eye contact with rolling eyeballs, a feature

Ishiguro believes is important to make conversations feel real.

In a demonstration, one CommU said to another CommU, "Do you know Denmark?"

It replied: "I love Denmark," to which the first said, "I love Denmark, too."

Ishiguro insists the robots

can do more than just agree with each other, and can be programmed to carry on various kinds of conversations, including confrontational chatter.

But the main point is that people should stop expecting robots to live up to human expectations or merely do useful chores.



# Stocks rise on expected EU stimulus, higher oil

**BERNARD CONDON**  
**Associated Press**

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Another choppy day on Wall Street ended with stocks broadly higher on hopes of new stimulus measures for Europe's weak economy and a sharp rise in oil prices.

Stocks flitted between gains and losses at the open of trading Wednesday, then rose on media reports that new stimulus measures by the European Central Bank will be as large as investors anticipated. The bank is expected on Thursday to unveil a massive round of government bond buying, a program known as quantitative easing.

All 10 sectors of the Standard and Poor's 500 stock index rose. A gain in oil prices helped push the energy sector up 1.8 percent, the biggest gainer.

The bumpy market is not surprising after big stock gains last year and the year before, said Phil Orlando, chief equity strategist at Federated Investments.

"Investors are worried the gains can't possibly last another year," he said. "Investors are really nervous."

Investors also weighed a batch of corporate earnings reports. Netflix surged 17 percent on a jump in fourth-quarter profits. But IBM's results disappointed

and its stock dropped 3 percent. Europe is facing anemic growth, high

the most anticipated event of the week."

The S&P 500 rose 9.57 points,

companies have reported, earnings per share are expected to edge up 0.5



**Trader Gregory Rowe, right, stops at the post that handles IBM on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange, Wednesday, Jan. 21, 2015. Another choppy day on Wall Street ended with stocks broadly higher on hopes of new stimulus measures for Europe's weak economy and a sharp rise in oil prices.**

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

unemployment and falling prices. To combat this, many investors had been expecting the European Central Bank to buy 500 billion euros (\$580 billion) of various government bonds. "All eyes are on the Mario Draghi," said Anastasia Amoroso, global market strategist at J.P. Morgan Asset Management, referring to the ECB president. "This is

or 0.5 percent, to close at 2,032.12. It was third straight day of gains for the index, a first in the new year.

The Dow Jones industrial average climbed 39.05 points, or 0.2 percent, to 17,554.28. The Nasdaq gained 12.58 points, or 0.3 percent, to 4,667.42.

Reporting of fourth-quarter corporate earnings is in full swing. When all S&P 500

percent, the smallest quarterly gain in two years, according to FactSet. A slump in oil, down more than 50 percent over the last seven months, is largely to blame. EPS at energy companies are expected to fall 22 percent from a year earlier.

"This earnings season is not as much of a slam dunk as in the past," said JP Morgan's Amoroso. □

## S&P to pay out near \$80 million in settlements

**B. PROTESS**  
**M. GOLDSTEIN**

© 2015 New York Times

Standard & Poor's, the credit rating agency blamed with helping inflate the subprime mortgage bubble, has now settled accusations that it orchestrated a similar fraud years after the bubble burst.

S&P, which is owned by McGraw Hill, has agreed to settle an array of government investigations stemming from 2011, paying nearly \$80 million,

federal and state authorities announced Wednesday.

As part of the deals, reached with the Securities and Exchange Commission and the attorneys general in New York and Massachusetts, S&P agreed to take a one-year "timeout" from rating certain commercial mortgage investments at the heart of the case, an embarrassing blow to the rating agency. "This was egregious behavior with significant consequences," Andrew J. Ceresney,

the SEC's enforcement director, said on a conference call with reporters. He added that the problems pointed to a "deep cultural failure at S&P" and a "failure to learn the lessons of the financial crisis."

The settlement, which came on top of an action filed against a former S&P ratings executive, is the SEC's first action against a top ratings firm.

Despite the central role that rating agencies played in the crisis - awarding inflated credit ratings to mortgage investments that spurred the meltdown - they faced no SEC penalties.

Yet the Justice Department and several state attorneys general did take action, suing S&P in connection with the crisis. After fighting that case for two years, S&P has now reached a tentative settlement that would require it to pay \$1.37 billion, a penalty large enough to wipe out its operating profit for a year. □

## Toyota remains top in global sales, beats VW, GM

**YURI KAGEYAMA**  
**AP Business Writer**

**TOKYO (AP)** — Toyota Motor Corp. stayed at the top in global vehicle sales in 2014, taking that auto industry crown for the third year straight, but was less upbeat about this year.

The Japanese automaker sold 10.23 million vehicles, beating out Volkswagen and General Motors. But it expects to sell fewer trucks and cars this year, forecasting sales will fall 1 percent year-on-year to 10.15 million vehicles, according to numbers released Wednesday.

The drop is largely due to a projected 9 percent plunge in Japan sales. Japan sales had been inflated

ed in the early part of last year ahead of a sales tax hike. Overall, the Japanese auto market is weakening because of population decline.

Toyota expects overseas sales to grow 2 percent this year to more than 8 million vehicles from 7.9 million vehicles last year.

Volkswagen AG of Germany sold 10.14 million vehicles in 2014, up 4 percent from the previous year. Detroit-based General Motors Co. was third at 9.92 million vehicles, a company record and 2 percent higher than its tally in 2013. GM gave its numbers earlier this month. Selling 10 million vehicles around the world in a year is a milestone for major au-

tomakers. And the race is intense as automakers increasingly compete in new markets.

Toyota's sales grew 6 percent in the U.S. from the previous year, 13 percent in China, and 10 percent in Brazil, according to the maker of the Camry sedan, Prius hybrid and Lexus luxury models.

Toyota suffered a setback in 2011, when its production was hobbled by the earthquake and tsunami in northeastern Japan. But it made a comeback as No. 1 in 2012.

GM had been the top-selling automaker for more than seven decades until being surpassed by Toyota in 2008.

But it is Volkswagen that has been racking up stellar growth in recent years, beating GM last year and in 2013. But that year, GM would have won if both companies had been compared without the sales of industrial truck brands, which GM doesn't make. Last year, Volkswagen outsold GM even without its heavy trucks, which totaled 199,900 vehicles. Toyota's Hino division, which makes trucks, sold 168,000 vehicles last year.

Toyota executives purposely exude a low-key approach about their global ambitions, stressing the company just wants to make and sell one car at a time. □



# Apple acquires Semetric, a data analysis company

**BEN SISARIO**

**BRIAN X. CHEN**

© 2015 New York Times

Apple has acquired Semetric, a company that analyzes data about music online, a move that may hint at Apple's ambitions as it prepares to revamp iTunes and Beats Music.

In documents filed with public regulators in Britain, where Semetric is based,

the company changed its address to one in London associated with Apple, and also named an Apple lawyer, Gene D. Levoff, as a company director. A person briefed on the deal, who spoke on the condition of anonymity, confirmed that Apple had bought Semetric, although further details, including the purchase price, could

not be confirmed.

Apple declined to comment, and a representative of Semetric did not respond to inquiries. The news was first reported early Wednesday by the website Music Ally.

Semetric, known for its service Musicmetric, is one of a growing number of companies that record labels, artist managers and oth-

ers turn to for data about how music is consumed online. This information has become coveted as more listeners turn from CDs and downloads to streaming outlets like Spotify and YouTube. Musicmetric, along with rivals like Next Big Sound, tracks streaming services and social media chatter, and sells that information to clients like

record companies and talent agents.

For Apple, the deal may signal a desire to expand its online music offerings after buying Beats last year for \$3 billion. The availability of useful data has become a critical point for artists and labels, and Apple is eager to present itself as a valuable partner, music executives say. □

# UnitedHealth earnings rise 6%, top Wall St. expectations

**TOM MURPHY**

**AP Business Writer**

UnitedHealth topped Wall Street expectations for the fourth quarter, and the nation's largest health insurer brought an optimistic vibe for the new year as it detailed final results from 2014.

The Minneapolis-based insurer said Wednesday that it expects stronger enrollment growth from Medicare Advantage plans, a key product that had been pinched by funding cuts in recent years. It also has already gained more than 400,000 customers through its expanded presence on the health care overhaul's public insurance exchanges, and operating earnings from its Optum segment, which runs several businesses outside health insurance, climbed more than 50 percent.

"We enter 2015 with momentum from a strong 2014 finish," CEO Stephen Hemsley told analysts after the company released results. That tone represented a stark contrast to how the

insurer started 2014, filled with worry about another round of funding cuts to Medicare Advantage plans, which are privately

ing the overhaul's coverage expansions, which introduced taxes and fees along with new customers who had gone years with

per share, to its 2014 earnings. But the insurer saw enough potential in the market to expand its presence from four individual

around 15,000 in 2014.

The insurer had said last month that it expected double-digit earnings growth in 2015, and it reaffirmed on Wednesday its forecast for earnings that range from \$6 to \$6.25 per share.

In the final quarter of 2014, UnitedHealth earned \$1.51 billion, or \$1.55 per share. That compares to net income of \$1.43 billion, or \$1.41 per share, the previous year.

Total revenue rose more than 7 percent to \$33.43 billion.

Analysts forecast, on average, earnings of \$1.50 per share on \$33.09 billion in revenue, according to Zacks Investment Research.

For the full year, UnitedHealth earned \$5.62 billion, or \$5.70 per share, on \$130.47 billion in revenue.

By the time companies report fourth-quarter results, most investors have turned their focus to what lies ahead, and UnitedHealth's outlook appeared to play well with them. □



This photo shows a portion of The UnitedHealth Group Inc.'s campus in Minnetonka, Minn. UnitedHealth Group Inc. reported quarterly financial results on Wednesday, Jan. 21, 2015.

(AP Photo/Jim Mone)

run versions of the federal government's coverage program for people who are over 65 or disabled. UnitedHealth and other insurers also were sweat-

no insurance coverage or regular health care.

UnitedHealth said Wednesday that the Affordable Care Act delivered a hit totaling \$1 billion, or about \$1

exchanges to 23 in 2015.

UnitedHealth also said it expects Medicare Advantage enrollment to grow by as much as 300,000 people this year after a net gain of

# Netflix accelerating ambitious global expansion plans

**EMILY STEEL**

© 2015 New York Times

Netflix is hoping that it will define Internet TV in Swahili, Spanish, Vietnamese, Filipino and dozens more languages within just two years.

The company, which already has a presence in 50 countries, announced this week that it would accelerate its global expansion to operate in 200 countries by the end of 2016.

Netflix said that it planned

to replicate its subscription-based, advertising-free model for its streaming service and that its business would remain profitable while pursuing such breakneck expansion. Netflix's international streaming business now loses money, but the company predicted that it would generate global profit by 2017.

International expansion is vital for Netflix as its growth slows in the United States. Reed Hastings, Netflix's

chief executive, said accelerating its global ambitions would put the company on track to reaching \$10 billion in revenue, which would allow it to reinvest in its service as well as developing and licensing more content.

"Once we complete the expansion, we're going to have a very unique and compelling proposition to producers, which is we can get your content seen and loved around the world," Hastings said in an inter-

view.

Netflix said it was still exploring its options for China and called its plans "modest." Despite the global ambitions, the quarterly results the company reported Tuesday underscored the challenges it faces at home.

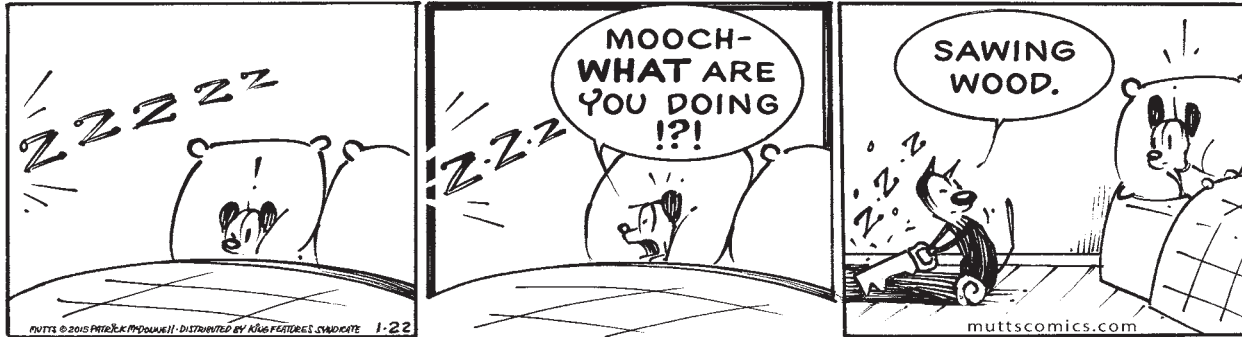
The company said it had exceeded its forecast for total paid streaming subscribers. That number increased to 54.5 million in the quarter that ended Dec. 31, 2014,

up 31.5 percent from the same period in 2013. Revenue rose 35.7 percent, to \$1.3 billion, compared with the year-earlier period.

Some analysts have started to raise questions about Netflix's long-term prospects, concerned about how much more the company can grow in the United States, where it is profitable, as well as the rising costs tied to paying for content and international expansion. □



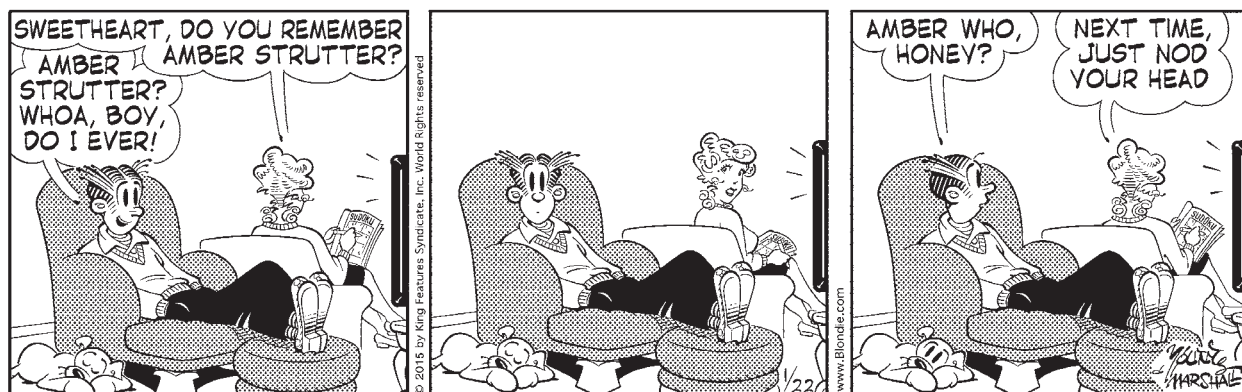
Mutts



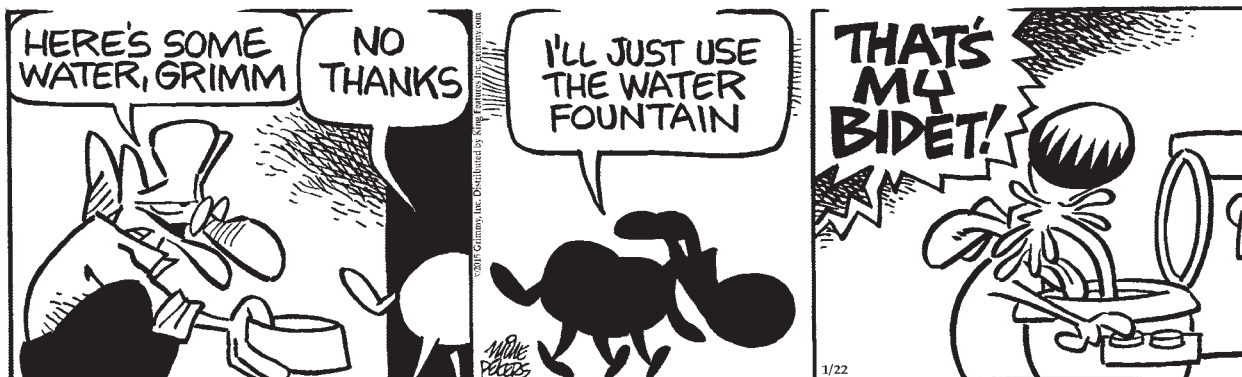
6 Chix



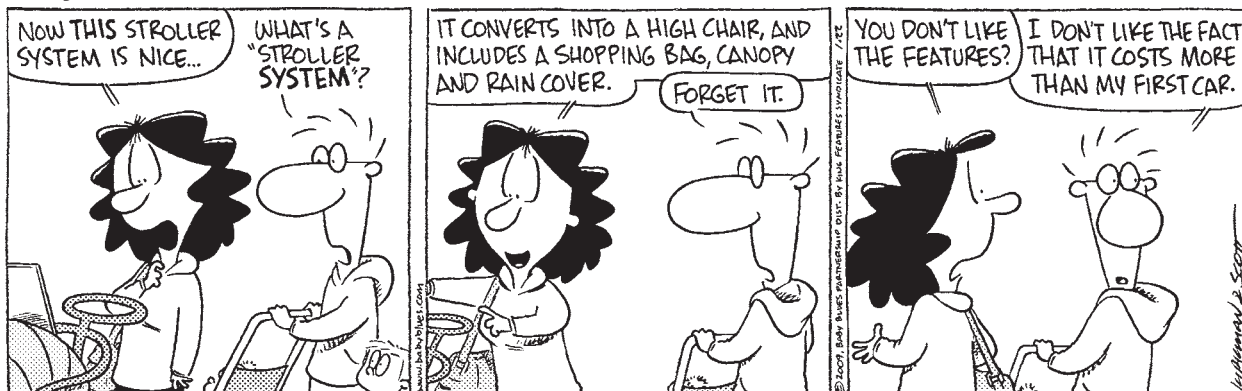
Blondie



Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

		2		4		6		
			7		9			
4		6				1		3
	1						3	
7				5				9
	9						8	
6		8				9		5
			3		8			
		9		2		3		

Difficulty Level ★★★

1/22

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

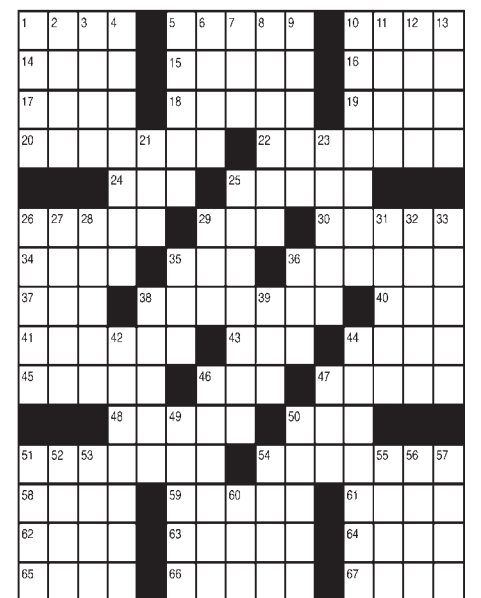
2	9	1	6	3	4	8	7	5
4	6	5	9	8	7	3	1	2
3	8	7	5	2	1	9	4	6
5	7	4	3	1	8	2	6	9
8	1	6	2	4	9	5	3	7
9	3	2	7	5	6	4	8	1
1	5	3	8	6	2	7	9	4
6	2	9	4	7	3	1	5	8
7	4	8	1	9	5	6	2	3

ACROSS

- Sad-faced
- Higher berth
- Puncture
- Late Kennedy matriarch
- Africa's Sierra
- Egg on
- Large kitchen appliance
- Poisonous
- Film holder
- Any of Zane Grey's novels
- Talkathon
- Stop dime
- Enough, and then some
- Prize
- Student's avg.
- Of the city
- "A \_\_\_ home is his castle"
- Stylish
- \_\_\_-the-park home run; baseball rarity
- Peculiar
- Beauty \_\_\_; Miss America competition
- Two, in Spain
- Get on
- Someone's \_\_\_; be annoying
- \_\_\_ for; request
- Money owed
- \_\_\_-grandfather; dad's dad's dad
- Yrbk. section
- Melodies
- Shoestrings
- Unruly crowd
- Alike
- Enchant; charm
- Singles
- Totes
- Hawaiian island
- Reasonable
- Indians of Peru
- Come \_\_\_; find
- Burden
- Poor
- Aug.'s follower

DOWN

- Get bigger



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

1/22/15

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

POUND	GRAB	AGOG
ANNIE	LOBE	CURE
ICING	EACH	CLAN
REVEREND	OPIATE	
TERN	PLEDGES	
LAWYER	DODGE	
OBI	SOBER	SNUBS
GARB	RIFTS	TRIO
STEED	PESTS	GEL
VIPER	REVERE	
PETERED	WADI	
ADORED	SEPARATE	
SERA	DATA	TIBIA
SMOG	LIAR	ELECT
EASE	EDGY	DESKS

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1/22/15

- |                    |                    |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| 36 Pen contents    | 51 Unexceptional   |
| 38 Part of a daisy | 52 ___ instant;    |
| 39 Donkey          | suddenly           |
| 42 Suitcases       | 53 List of dishes  |
| 44 Questionable    | 54 Pitt or Garrett |
| 46 Peaceful        | 55 Sticky strip    |
| 47 Haul, as a car  | 56 Cut up          |
| 49 Forest home     | 57 Search          |
| 50 Sloppy          | 60 Highest heart   |



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May 5, superior Rm 151\$2500  
Casa del Mar Amb. one  
bedroom unit week 29 unit  
1326 July 18 \$2500 and  
Paradise Beach Villas week 32  
Rm 310, 1 br Aug. 8 \$2100 all  
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moving and very last 2 weeks  
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Mrs Brenne  
jazb1@aol.com

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Week	room	price
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2	571	\$8500
3 or 4	120	\$7,000
10	137	\$9,000
14	348	\$11,500
8	561	\$9,000
13	501	\$9,000
14	540	\$5,000
14	349	\$11,000
10	521	\$8,500
9	135	\$9,000

Contact Brian Cell: 593-0200  
vr.realty@mac.com

211215

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Paradise Beach Resort week 2,  
1/10 start Studio Rm 313,  
super property, all amenities,  
\$1875 also week 19, one Br  
unit 104 may 9 start \$1700  
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211232

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14	1	odd year	\$2250
43	1	every	\$999
49	2	every	\$1999

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211672

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**Oranjestad**

Dr. Yagua-Fingal

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NOORD	587-0009
STA. CRUZ	585-4710
SAVANETA	584-7000
SAN NICOLAS	584-5000
FIRE DEPT.	115
FIRE DEPT.	582-1108
POLIS TIPLINE	11141
HOSPITAL	527-4000
AMBULANCE	582-1234
SAN NICOLAS	
AMBULANCE	584-5050

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TAXI	582-5900
TAXI-TAS	587-5900
PROF. TAXI	588-0035
TAXI D.T.S.	587-2300
SERVICE ARUBA	583-3232

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Thompson Celebration  
Adventure of the Seas  
Carnival Freedom



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Avianca	588-0059
Dutch Antilles	588-1900
Insel Air	588-9314
Jet Blue	588-2244
Spirit Airlines	582-7117
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## FUNDACION

### Respetami

Tel: 582-4433

## Diabetic Foundation

### Arubano

Tel: 583-3808

## Narcotics Anonymous

Tel: 583-8989

## Foundation Amor

### pa Prohimo

Tel: 583-3345 /586-6976

## Women in Difficulties

### Foundation

Tel: 583-5400

## Bloodbank Aruba

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24/7

## India counts more wild tigers, credits conservation

**NIRMALA GEORGE**

**Associated Press**

**NEW DELHI (AP)** — In-

dia's latest tiger census shows a sharp increase in the number of the endangered cats in the wild, raising hopes that conservation efforts are working, officials said Tuesday.

The census conducted in 2014 found at least 2,226 tigers in forests across the country, up from 1,706 counted in 2010.

Environment minister Prakash Javadekar described the figure as a huge success story and said it was the result of sustained conservation efforts.

"While the tiger population is falling in the world, it is rising in India. This is great news," Javadekar told journalists in New Delhi.

Tigers in India have been threatened by rampant poaching and shrinking habitats from deforestation caused by power projects, roads and hu-



In this Saturday, April 26, 2014, file photo, a Royal Bengal tiger prowls in Sunderbans, at the Sunderban delta, about 130 kilometers (81 miles) south of Calcutta, India.

man settlements as the country pushes ahead with rapid industrialization and economic development.

The disappearance of forests has affected the availability of prey and led tigers to stray into hu-

man habitats.

Javadekar said more than 9,700 cameras were used in the massive count and the results are the most accurate in the past few decades.

"Never before has such an exercise been taken.

We have unique photographs of 80 percent of the tigers" in the wild, he said.

Officials said nearly 380,000 square kilometers (146,000 square miles) of forest area in 18 states were surveyed.

**Associated Press**

A century ago an estimated 100,000 tigers roamed India's forests. Their numbers declined steadily till the 1970s, when India banned tiger hunting and embarked on a program to create special reserves and protected areas in national parks and wildlife sanctuaries. Conservation efforts began to pay off around 2010 when tiger numbers began to rise.

India faces intense international scrutiny over its tiger conservation efforts as it has nearly three-fourths of the world's estimated 3,200 tigers.

Shrinking habitats have brought the wild cats into conflict with farmers who live near tiger reserves. Also, the illegal trade in tiger skin and body parts remains a stubborn and serious threat. Tiger organs and bones fetch high prices on the black market because of demand driven by traditional Chinese medicine practitioners. □



In this June 23, 2011, file photo, a Puerto Rican parrot is pictured inside a fly cage at El Yunque National Forest protected habitat in Luquillo, Puerto Rico. **Associated Press**

**SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico**

**(AP)** — A group of scientists opened a cage at dawn

on Wednesday and reintroduced 15 endangered Puerto Rican parrots into

## 15 endangered Puerto Rican parrots released into wild

the wild as part of a conservation program.

The birds flew away without hesitation as they disappeared into a forest near Puerto Rico's north coast, according to Natural Resources Secretary Carmen Guerrero.

It was the ninth release at the Rio Abajo Nature Preserve since 2006. Another 204 parrots remain at the preserve, and an estimated 57 to 108 parrots are believed to live in the wild

nearby, she said.

The parrots released Wednesday were between 1 and 2 years old and were kept in a cage separate from the other parrots for a year. Scientists tried to simulate a natural environment in that cage, where they fed them local fruits and showed them how to recognize natural predators.

The Natural Resources Department also manages another breeding center

at El Yunque tropical rain forest in northeast Puerto Rico. Scientists expect to open a third breeding center soon in the western mountain town of Maricao. The birds are Puerto Rico's only remaining native parrot. Scientists estimate that as many as 1 million existed in pre-colonial times, with numbers reaching a low of 13 in 1975 following decades of forest clearing to plant coffee, citrus and sugar cane. □



## Jay and Mark Duplass' 'Togetherness' explores brotherly love

FRAZIER MOORE

AP Television Writer

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Steps have been taken to avoid any mix-up distinguishing the voices — Mark's from Jay's — when the tape is transcribed. But the Duplass brothers assure their interviewer that, whether they're discussing their films or anything else, they don't care which name is attached to a quote.

"We share the same brain," Mark explains.

At any rate, they enjoy free access to each other's brain: "We are both obsessed with the human condition," says Jay, "and we're constantly in conversation about it."

The conversation continues as they join a reporter at HBO to publicize their first TV series, "Togetherness," whose third of eight episodes runs Sunday at 9:30 p.m. EST.

"Togetherness" is well worth catching up with. Funny, painful and (for a certain demo) all too relatable, it exudes the singular voice of this hydra-headed duo whose many hats include writing, producing, directing and, in Mark's case, headlining.

He plays Brett, a sound



This image released by HBO shows brothers Jay Duplass, left, and Mark Duplass on the set of "Togetherness," a series airing Sundays at 9:30 p.m. EST.

engineer and family man who has hit a wall in both his career and marriage. His wife, Michelle (played by Melanie Lynskey), feels imprisoned as a stay-at-home mom. Adding to the ferment is her sister Tina (Amanda Peet), a wayward hottie who lands in their Los Angeles home after splitting from Houston. Rounding out this domestic quartet is Mark's best friend, Alex (Steve Zissis),

an out-of-work actor seeking refuge on the couple's couch.

"The more messed up we made them, the more it gave us to love, and root for, in them," says Mark. "They are trying very hard to be good people, spouses and parents, and to support each other — but then they feel like, 'I need to get the (heck) out of here! I need some space!' That's how Jay and I sometimes

perceive our lives."

The Duplass brothers grew up in New Orleans and, from childhood, made films.

Early on, they were bewitched by John Cassavetes and his brooding cinema-verite style, says Mark, "but we also loved 'Dumb and Dumber.' We see the seriousness and gravity in things. But we also giggle. That combination of the sad and the funny is what

we do."

After struggling through their 20s, they scored in 2005 with "The Puffy Chair," which they jointly wrote, directed and produced, with Mark as its protagonist. It was followed by such films as "Cyrus," starring John C. Reilly, Jonah Hill and Marisa Tomei, and "Jeff Who Lives at Home," starring Jason Segel and Ed Helms.

Then this fraternal order (Mark now is 38, Jay is 41) took on middle-age angst.

"By then, each of us was married with two small kids," says Jay, "and everyone was like, 'You have it all: a beautiful family, a career, a wonderful house.' But in our minds was, 'I'm sleep-deprived. I don't have two seconds to myself. My life is dominated by a tiny little being that wakes up every two hours.'"

"All we wanted," Mark says, "was to be sleeping on someone's couch, then wake up and binge on Netflix."

Not the sort of thing you could say to most people. Certainly not to Steve Zissis, their close friend since high school whose youthful promise thus far had gone unrealized, both romantically and professionally.

Associated Press

## James Taylor, Paul Simon perform at benefit for jazz great

MESFIN FEKADU

AP Music Writer

**NEW YORK (AP)** — James Taylor and Paul Simon paid tribute to late jazz great Michael Brecker with performances and kind words at a cancer benefit for their friend who died in 2007.

Taylor, who Brecker's widow said had the flu, performed "Don't Let Me Be Lonely Tonight" — the first song he played with the jazz saxophonist — in New York City on Tuesday night. Taylor was on guitar as Brecker's brother, Randy Brecker, played the trumpet.

"I miss him all the time," Taylor said after the performance. "Michael saved my life and probably a lot of other people. He led

me to freedom, really from addiction, and showed a number of us the way."

He earned a large applause from the crowd of 400 at the event dubbed "The Nearness of You" concert at Jazz at Lincoln Center's Appel Room.

Brecker, who died at age 57, won more than a dozen Grammy Awards and played with a number of iconic artists, including Elton John, Herbie Hancock, Joni Mitchell, Simon and Taylor.

He struggled with myelodysplastic syndrome, a cancer in which the bone marrow stops producing enough healthy blood cells. Tuesday's benefit for Brecker — the first — raised money to assist two doctors

working at Columbia University Medical Center and fighting to cure MDS.

The concert raised about \$1.2 million, a representative for the event said Wednesday.

Simon performed "Still Crazy After All These Years" and "The Boxer," songs he said he "closely associates" with Brecker. A riveting Dianne Reeves and Bobby McFerrin also sang, while Brecker's 15-piece band — The Michael Brecker Quintet — played throughout the night and in between the singers' sets.

Brecker's widow said she wanted to make the concert an annual event.

"We are family; family because we share a deep connection: We have all



James Taylor performs at the Nearness of You concert at Jazz at Lincoln Center on Tuesday, Jan. 20, 2015, in New York.

Associated Press

lost people we love to cancer," she told the audience.

"We have an opportunity tonight to make a difference. Let our family, everyone in this room join together with our hearts and with our wallets open to make cancer finally and forever a thing of the past."

Other attendees included Robin Roberts, who told stories about her battles with cancer, and Meredith Vieira, who spoke of her family's encounters with the disease.

Taylor joined forces with Simon, Reeves and McFerrin to close the 90-minute show with "Shower the People."





New Kids on the Block members, from left, Joey McIntyre, Danny Wood, Donnie Wahlberg, Jonathan Knight and Jordan Knight announce their "The Main Event" tour at Madison Square Garden on Tuesday, Jan. 20, 2015, in New York.

Associated Press

## New Kids on the Block: New boy bands can learn from us

**JOHN CARUCCI**  
Associated Press

**NEW YORK (AP)** — New Kids on the Block are ready to take new boy bands on the block to school.

The Boston-based veteran group, which announced a summer tour with TLC and Nelly this week, said contemporary boy bands should check out their live concerts to learn from the experts.

"As far as boy bands, you know, we dance, we perform. I mean, I hate to sound like an old fogey, but these kids don't know what they're missing nowadays because we got to sing and dance for our supper, you know what I mean, and we love to do that," Joey McIntyre, 42, said in an interview Tuesday at Madison Square Garden in

New York City.

"So maybe a few kids could come to the show and see how it's done."

The Main Event tour kicks off May 1 in Las Vegas. Tickets go on sale Jan. 31.

In the last few years, boy bands have resurged, with One Direction leading the pack, followed by 5 Seconds of Summer. Others, from The Wanted to Mindless Behavior, have had some success.

Donnie Wahlberg, 45, said the decades-long bond between New Kids on the Block and their fans makes it worthwhile.

"I would rather have the credibility of thousands of fans and have them be happy. That's what we've learned and that's why we're still here," Wahlberg said. "We keep it alive

because it stays alive between us and our fans. It's a real relationship now."

Wahlberg and McIntyre, along with bandmates Danny Wood and brothers Jordan and Jonathan Knight, began playing together more than 30 years ago.

They said they're excited to share a stage with one of the top-selling female groups of all-time and the multiplatinum Nelly.

"It's always nice to go out onstage and know there might be some people out there that haven't seen what you do, so you're engaging with them. It keeps it fresh for you," McIntyre said. "It just adds to the juice of the night, and we're ready to do that."

The 42-date tour wraps July 2 in Buffalo, New York.

## Review: Sports guy Greenberg hits home run with latest novel

**MIKE HOUSEHOLDER**  
Associated Press

Mike Greenberg knows sports.

And talking about them.

One-half of the long-running and ever-popular "Mike & Mike" national sports radio show, Greenberg (alongside co-host and former NFL player Mike Golic) spends the morning drive-time period touching on all the prevailing topics of the day in the world of sports.

It's not all that surprising that Greenberg has parlayed his on-air success into a thriving writing career.

What is surprising, however, is that he's penning novels, not just sports-themed books.

Greenberg's latest, "My Father's Wives," chronicles two weeks in the life of the narrator, Wall Street banker Jonathan Sweetwater, whose life is turned upside down when he is faced with the possibility that his marriage is not what he believed it to be.

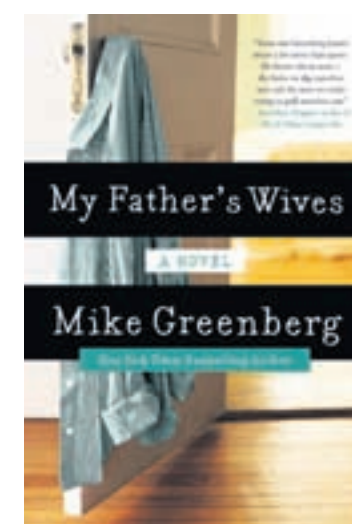
This epiphany propels Sweetwater on a search for answers — not just about the status of his relationship with wife, Claire, but also about his late father, U.S. Sen. Percival Sweetwater III.

The five-term "liberal lion" was a friend and confidante of presidents and a champion of his constituents, but a barely there father to Jonathan. Percy married five more times after divorcing his first wife, Jonathan's mother.

Spurred by a need to learn

something, anything really, about the man he never knew, Jonathan travels far and wide — London, the Caribbean, the mountains of Colorado and more — to meet with the half-dozen women with whom his father shared his life.

"I feel like there was some



This book cover image released by William Morrow shows "My Father's Wives," a novel by Mike Greenberg.

Associated Press

answer I've been waiting all my life for," Jonathan tells wife No. 6, a psychiatrist named Diane Gray, during their meeting in New York.

On the surface, "My Father's Wives" appears to be an examination of relationships. Fathers and sons. Husbands and wives.

It is that for sure. But it's also so much more.

The book has a detective-novel feel. What's going on with Jonathan's marriage? Will he find all the wives? What will he learn when he gets there?



## Pharrell, Sam Smith, John Legend to perform at Grammy Awards

**MESFIN FEKADU**  
AP Music Writer

U.S. singer Pharrell Williams gestures as he speaks during the panel "What's Next? A Climate for Action", at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, Wednesday, Jan. 21, 2015.

Associated Press

**NEW YORK (AP)** — One sings about being "Happy," the other croons about being sad: Pharrell and Sam Smith will perform at the Grammys next month.

The Recording Academy announced Wednesday that Usher and Miranda Lambert also will take the

stage at the Feb. 8 show in Los Angeles. Common and John Legend will perform their Golden Globe-winning, Oscar-nominated song, "Glory," from the movie "Selma."

Smith, Pharrell and Beyonce are the Grammy leaders with six nomina-

tions apiece. They will battle Beck and Ed Sheeran for the top prize, album of the year.

Previously announced performers include Madonna, AC/DC, Ariana Grande, Eric Church and Sheeran. The 57th annual Grammy Awards will air live on CBS from the Staples Center.



# Not Just a Movie



MAUREEN DOWD

© 2015 New York Times

**WASHINGTON** - I went Friday morning to see "Selma" and found myself watching it in a theater full of black teenagers. Thanks to donations, D.C. public school kids got free tickets to the first Hollywood movie about the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. on his birthday weekend - an effort that was duplicated for students around the country.

The kids did plenty of talking and texting, and plenty of fighting over whether there was too much talking and texting. Slowly but surely, though, the crowd was drawn in by the Scheherazade skills of the "Selma" director, Ava DuVernay. The horrific scene of the four schoolgirls killed in the white supremacist bombing of a Birmingham, Alabama, church stunned the audience. One young man next to me unleashed a string of expletives and admitted that he was scared. When civil rights leaders are clubbed, whipped and trampled by white lawmen as feral white onlookers cheer, the youngsters seemed aghast. In a delicately wrought scene in which Coretta Scott King calls out her husband about his infidelities, some of the teenage girls reacted with a chorus of "ooooohs."

DuVernay sets the tone for her portrayal of Lyndon Johnson as patronizing and skittish on civil rights in the first scene between the president and King. LBJ stands above a seated MLK, pats him on the shoulder, and tells him "this voting thing is just going to have to wait" while he works on "the eradication of poverty."

Many of the teenagers by me bristled at the power dynamic between the men. It was clear that a generation of young moviegoers would now see LBJ's role in civil rights through DuVernay's lens.

And that's a shame. I loved the movie and find the Oscar snub of its dazzling actors repugnant. But the director's talent makes her distortion of LBJ more egregious. Artful falsehood is more dangerous than artless falsehood, because fewer people see through it.

DuVernay told Rolling Stone that, originally, the script was more centered on the LBJ-MLK relationship and was "much more slanted to Johnson."

"I wasn't interested in making a white-savior movie," she said.

Hollywood has done that with films like "Mississippi Burning," which cast white FBI agents as the heroes, or "Cry Freedom," which made a white journalist the focus rather than Denzel Washington's anti-apartheid activist, Steve Biko.

Instead of painting LBJ and MLK as allies, employing different tac-

tics but complementing each other, the director made Johnson an obstacle.

Top Johnson aide Jack Valenti told Michael Beschloss, the presidential historian, that LBJ aspired to pass a Voting Rights Act from his first night as president. Valenti said that his boss talked to him about it the night of JFK's assassination in the bedroom of Johnson's house in D.C., The Elms, before the newly sworn-in president went to sleep.

On the tape of a phone conversation between Johnson and King the week of LBJ's 1965 inauguration, the president said that he indicated the time was yet ripe to ask Congress for it, and he made it clear that they both needed to think of something that would move public opinion more than a presidential speech.

"Johnson was probably thinking, at least in part, of the spring of '63, when JFK was privately saying the public wasn't yet politically ready for a comprehensive civil rights bill," Beschloss said. "Then came the May 1963 photograph of Birmingham police setting dogs against African-American demonstrators, which helped to move many white Americans who were on the fence about the issue."

"Once Selma happened, LBJ was, of course, horrified, but he knew that the atrocity would have an effect on white Americans similar to Birmingham that would make it easier for him to get a Voting Rights Act from Congress."

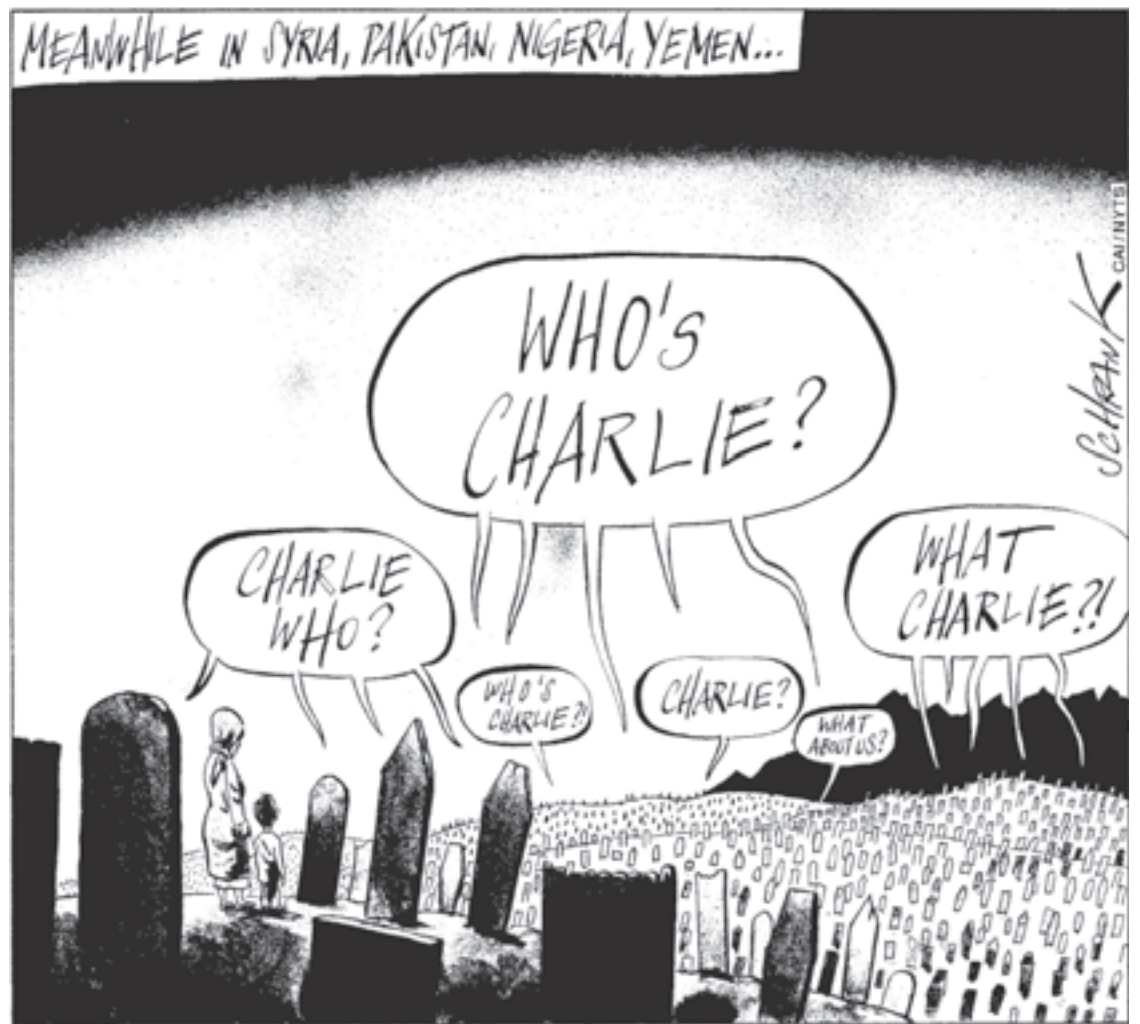
In an interview with Gwen Ifill on PBS, DuVernay dismissed the criticism by Joseph Califano Jr. and other LBJ loyalists, who said that the president did not resist the Selma march or let J. Edgar Hoover send a sex tape of her husband to Coretta King. (Bobby Kennedy, as JFK's attorney general, is the one who allowed Hoover to tap King.) "This is art; this is a movie; this is a film," DuVernay said. "I'm not a historian. I'm not a documentarian."

The "Hey, it's just a movie" excuse doesn't wash. Filmmakers love to talk about their artistic license to distort the truth, even as they bank on the authenticity of their films to boost them at awards season.

John Lewis, the Georgia congressman who was badly beaten in Selma, has said that bridge led to the Obama White House. And, on Friday night, the president offset the Oscar dis by screening "Selma" at the White House. Guests included DuVernay, Lewis and Oprah Winfrey, who acts in the film and was one of its producers.

There was no need for DuVernay to diminish LBJ, given that the Civil Rights Movement would not have advanced without him. Vietnam is enough of a pox on his legacy. As I have written about "Lincoln," "Zero Dark Thirty" and "Argo," and as The New York Review of Books makes clear about "The Imitation Game," the truth is dramatic and fascinating enough. Why twist it? On matters of race - America's original sin - there is an even higher responsibility to be accurate.

DuVernay had plenty of vile white villains - including one who kicks a priest to death in the street - and they were no doubt shocking to the D.C. school kids. There was no need to create a faux one. □



# Mitt the Insurgent Campaigner



ROSS DOUTHAT

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The idea of yet a third Mitt Romney campaign for the presidency, once the idle dream of a few Romney bundlers and now apparently something embraced by the Man From Bain Capital himself, has been greeted by most Republicans with a mixture of horror, exhaustion and embarrassment. The polite ones sound like a girl before the senior prom who can't believe that the stumblebum date who ruined her last school dance is in line first to ask her again: No, please, not this time. The rest sound like the characters in the third act of a horror movie, confronting a shambling revenant that just keeps coming: How do we kill this thing?

And these attitudes are understandable. Romney was not, perhaps, quite as terrible a presidential candidate as memories of his worst moments might lead one to believe: He ran ahead of many Republican Senate candidates; he had the most successful presidential debate performance in recent memory; he persuaded the public that he was closer to the ideological middle than President Barack Obama.

But his failures were ... conspicuous. There was the threadbare policy agenda, linked to a self-defeating theory that the election would be decided by the unemployment rate alone. There were the various rich-guy disasters that played into the White House's effort to portray him as the candi-

date of the richest 0.47 percent. And most unforgivable, given his promise of a ruthless private sector competence, there were the polling failures and ground-game debacles that let Obama coast to victory.

What would Romney re-redux offer? Nothing obvious: Romney's a decade removed from elected office, with nothing on his résumé since except the permanent campaign. As a white, super-rich, late-60-something male, he's the walking embodiment of his party's image problems. He won the last nominating contest because on the debate stage he looked like Aragorn son of Arathorn among a collection of dwarves and hobbits (plus Jon Huntsman's elf lord and Ron Paul's Gollum). Unless meteors strike several state capitols and the U.S. Senate, that won't be true this time.

So a third Romney run will almost certainly be a blind alley for a man who should be thinking of a better way to serve his country and his fellow man.

But should Republicans actively fear a Romney run? I think not: If the conventional wisdom is correct about its folly, it's hard to see what harm it can do, save to Romney's own ego and self-image, to have that folly ruthlessly exposed. Another run would be genuinely frightening for Republicans - and this is probably why the reaction against it has been so intense - if there were any chance of Romney doing what he did in 2012: monopolizing fundraising to a point where other potentially electable candidates stay out; carpet-bombing his opponents with attack ads; and essentially forcing the party faithful to accept him, flaws and all.

But unless GOP power brokers are truly crazy - and based on the response to Romney's trial balloon they aren't - that isn't going to happen. Not even close. Instead,

a Romney candidacy would depend on a small circle of backers while ceding immense fundraising territory to Jeb Bush, Chris Christie, Scott Walker, Marco Rubio ... the list goes on. He wouldn't quite resemble his old rivals Newt Gingrich and Rick Santorum, each of whose insurgent campaigns were floated by a single megadonor, but he would be closer to their position than to that of the commanding Mitt of old.

And he would resemble Gingrich and Santorum in other ways. In 2008, he had the backing of key voices in the conservative movement; in 2012, he had the establishment (however reluctantly) behind him. In 2016, he would be on his own, hanging out in Iowa living rooms and New Hampshire diners, trying to win primaries on the basis of debate performances and flesh-pressing and even (gasp!) ideas, like any other long-shot candidate.

Which is why, purely as human drama, Romney 3.0 could actually be interesting to watch. Maybe he'll campaign more openly as a Mormon, running ads like the moving testimonials that aired just before Clint Eastwood's prime time weird-out at the Republican convention, in which his faith and works are played up rather than hidden. Maybe he'll roll out a sweeping policy agenda on poverty, as he claims he wants to do, amid incredibly awkward but maybe touching photo ops with the rural unemployed and inner-city kids. Maybe he'll sock Mike Huckabee in the jaw during a debate.

Or maybe he'll be wooden, clueless and entitled; finish sixth in Iowa and fourth in New Hampshire; and drop out. In which case he'll lose some dignity, but we won't lose anything at all.

So Mitt, it's your call. I wouldn't do it, you won't win it, but I respect a Romney's right to choose. □



# Lemon Bars: A Touch of Tart and Tangy



A mixture of confectioner's sugar and flaky sea salt is sprinkled over the baked lemon curd right before serving for this more grown-up lemon bar recipe that also uses olive oil, in New York. Olive oil and sea salt add complexity and sophistication to a childhood favorite.

(Andrew Scrivani/The New York Times)

**MELISSA CLARK**

© 2015 New York Times

My mother wasn't a baker, but she did make some mean lemon bars when I was growing up, using a recipe straight out of a Charlie Brown cookbook. They were simple things, a buttery crust pressed into the pan and topped with beaten eggs, lemon and sugar, then baked. Ultra-sweet, crunchy on top and gooey within, they were our staple contribution to bake sales and potlucks, and all my grade school friends adored them.

This recipe is not for those lemon bars, as much as they still appeal to my inner 8-year-old. This is for something more grown-up: lemon bars flavored with olive oil and dusted with sea salt. They are complex and sophisticated, tangy and tart, where the other ones were gentle and sweet. Each bite zips around your mouth, hitting sweet, salty, sour and bitter notes. The bitterness comes from the olive oil, and brings an un-

expected bite to the mix of flavors.

Using olive oil in lemon bars may sound odd, but when you think about all those lemon and olive oil cakes from Italy and southern France, it makes more sense. The tricky part was figuring out how to incorporate it into bars.

I started with the crust, trying out different versions of an olive oil in the shortbread. But none were as good as using all butter, so I abandoned the idea.

Stirring the olive oil into the lemon curd after it thickened on the stove worked a lot better. Not only does it add flavor, it also makes the curd glossy and silky. Choose a good olive oil with personality here - anything bland undermines the point. Look for something with peppery and herbal notes.

A sprinkle of sea salt at the end makes the bars slightly savory and brings out the tartness and bitterness of the curd, while a generous dusting of powdered sugar

is a softly sweet contrast. Don't garnish the bars with sea salt and confectioners' sugar until just before serving, or they will melt into the curd and lose their punch. If you are tempted to use floral Meyer lemon here, you can, but substitute only half Meyer lemons for regular lemons. Meyer lemons are sweeter than regular ones and won't give you enough acidity if you substitute them entirely.

Although these are designed for adults, don't be afraid to serve them to children. My 6-year-old loves these newfangled lemon bars just as much as my mother does.

## LEMON BARS

Time: 1 1/2 hours, plus cooling and chilling

Yield: 24 bars

### FOR THE CRUST:

1 1/4 cups all-purpose flour  
1/4 cup sugar

3 tablespoons confectioners' sugar, plus more for sprinkling

1 teaspoon finely grated lemon zest

1/4 teaspoon fine sea salt  
10 tablespoons unsalted butter

### FOR THE CURD:

4 to 6 lemons  
1 1/2 cups sugar  
2 large eggs plus 3 yolks  
1 1/2 teaspoons cornstarch  
Pinch of fine sea salt  
4 tablespoons, cut into cubes  
1/4 cup fruity extra-virgin olive oil

Confectioners' sugar  
Flaky sea salt, for sprinkling

1. Heat oven to 325 degrees and line a 9-by-9-inch baking pan with enough parchment to hang over two of the sides (to be used as handles later to lift the bars out of the pan).

2. To make the shortbread base, pulse together the flour, granulated sugar, confectioners' sugar, lemon zest and salt in a food processor, or whisk together in a large bowl. Add butter and pulse (or use two knives or your fingers) to cut the butter into the flour until a crumbly dough forms. Press dough into prepared pan and bake until short-

bread is pale golden all over, 30 to 35 minutes.

3. While the shortbread is baking, prepare the lemon curd: Grate 1/2 tablespoon zest from lemons and set aside. Squeeze lemons to yield 3/4 cup juice.

4. In a small saucepan, whisk together lemon juice, sugar, eggs and yolks, cornstarch and fine sea salt over medium heat until boiling and thickened, 2 to 5 minutes. Make sure mixture comes to a boil, or the cornstarch won't activate. Remove from heat and strain into a bowl. Whisk in butter, olive oil and lemon zest.

5. When the shortbread is ready, take it out of the oven and carefully pour the lemon curd onto the shortbread base; return the pan to the oven. Bake until topping is just set, 10 to 15 minutes more. Allow to cool to room temperature, then refrigerate until cold before cutting into bars. Sprinkle with confectioners' sugar and flaky sea salt right before serving. □